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FBIS-EAS-92-238 CONTENTS *10 December 1992*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Government Support 'Growing' To Scrap Rice Ban *[KYODO]* 1
GATT Accord 'Tariffication Without Exception' *[KYODO]* 1
Watanabe on 'Best Chance' To End Trade Talks *[KYODO]* 2
Kato Issues Statement on Somalia Aid Efforts *[KYODO]* 2
Refugee Aid to Somalia's Neighbors Considered *[KYODO]* 2
Future Israeli Foreign Minister Visit Shortened *[KYODO]* 3
'Party Sources' on Miyazawa's Cabinet Reshuffle *[KYODO]* 3
Opposition's Resolution Demands Sagawa Probe *[KYODO]* 4
Survey Reveals Excess Labor of Big Manufacturers *[KYODO]* 4
Tertiary Industry Activity Retreats in 3d Quarter *[KYODO]* 4
Tokyo Urged To Accept More Foreign Students *[KYODO]* 5
First Radioactive Waste Delivered to Center *[KYODO]* 5
Researchers on Uranium Waste Depository Radiation *[KYODO]* 6
New Technologies Studied for Nuclear Plants *[KYODO]* 6

North Korea

Ministry Official Says Treaty With Russia Still Effective *[KCNA]* 7
Reportage on Pyongyang Meeting of Intellectuals 7
Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Attend *[KCNA]* 7
Kim Il-song Works Guide Intellectuals *[KCNA]* 8
Vice President Reads Party Letter *[KCNA]* 9
Dailies Praise Meeting *[KCNA]* 10
Devotion to Socialism Lauded *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10

South Korea

Government Unlikely to Join Somalia Aid Effort *[YONHAP]* 14
U.S. Leadership 'Well-Displayed' in Somalia *[THE KOREA TIMES 10 Dec]* 14
Delegations Hold 12th JNCC Meeting Talks 10 Dec *[Seoul Radio]* 15
DPRK Agrees To Meet 17 Dec *[YONHAP]* 15
Mutual Inspection Rules Expected *[YONHAP]* 15
DPRK Delegate Hints at Talks Suspension *[CHUNGANG ILBO 10 Dec]* 16
Hyundai-Owned Daily Discontinues Printing for CHOSON ILBO *[YONHAP]* 16
Government Plans To Curb Overseas Borrowing *[YONHAP]* 16
YONHAP News Agency Establishes Beijing Correspondent *[YONHAP]* 16
Finance Minister To Preside Over Monetary Board Meetings *[THE KOREA TIMES 5 Dec]* 17

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Says Royal Immunity Under Study *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 8 Dec]* 18
Party Official Supports Amendment *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 19
Parliament Approves Amendment *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 19
Minister Offers Troops to UN for Bosnia, Somalia *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 19

Cambodia

Efforts To Treat Sihanouk Said French 'Scheme' *[Radio VGNUFC]* 20
Tie Banh Grants Interview to Japanese TV *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 21
News Briefing on SNC Meeting, UN Sanctions *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 21
SNC Views Vietnamese Forces Issue; KR Absent *[AFP]* 22
Newspaper Alleges 'Two-Faced' Thai Policy *[CAMBODIA TIMES 23-29 Nov]* 23
10 Dec International Human Rights Day Viewed *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 24

Indonesia

Jakarta, Beijing Agree To Settle Dumping Issue *[Jakarta Radio]* 25
Suharto Meets PRC Minister *[Jakarta Radio]* 25
East Timor Rebel Leader To Face Criminal Trial *[Jakarta Radio]* 26

Laos

Committee Issues Press Release on Kaysone Funeral *[Vientiane Radio]* 26
SPA Member Visits Ethnic People in Luang Prabang *[Vientiane Radio]* 27

Philippines

Abadia Begins 'Extensive' Military Reorganization *[Quezon City TV]* 27
Ramos Delievers Speech Marking Human Rights Day *[Quezon City Radio]* 27
Appointments Body Confirms 4 Cabinet Nominations *[Quezon City TV]* 29
Ramos Names National Security Council Officials *[Manila Radio]* 29

Thailand

Prasong, France's Cheysson on UN, Border Issues *[AFP]* 29
Burmese Not Yet Withdrawn From Positions on Hill *[BANGKOK POST 10 Dec]* 30
Army Chief Supports Government on Hill Dispute *[BANGKOK POST 10 Dec]* 31
Chuan Dismisses Criticism of Cambodia Policy *[BANGKOK POST 10 Dec]* 31
Officials To Query Malaysia Over Border Markers *[BANGKOK POST 7 Dec]* 32
Spokesman: U.S. Postpones Decision on GSP Status *[Bangkok VOFA]* 32
PRC Overseas Chinese Affairs Delegation Arrives *[XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO 9 Dec]* 32
Government Adopts Cautious AFTA Policy *[THE NATION 10 Dec]* 32
Foot Soldiers To Testify Before Panel on Missing *[THE NATION 10 Dec]* 33
Chat Phatthana, Chat Thai Parties Consider Merger *[THE NATION 10 Dec]* 34

Vietnam

9 Dec Assembly Opening Reported *[Hanoi Radio]* 34
Issues Communique No.1 *[Hanoi Radio]* 38
10 Dec Plenary Meeting *[Hanoi Radio]* 38
10 Dec Proceedings Updated *[Hanoi Radio]* 39
Voters Raise 'Urgent' Issues With Do Muoi *[Hanoi Radio]* 39
Vo Van Kiet Visits Tra Vinh, Vinh Long Provinces *[Hanoi TV]* 39
Le Xuan Trinh Speaks on Development Achievements *[Hanoi Radio]* 40
Justice Minister on Financial Banking System *[VNA]* 40
Report on Talks With Motorola Executives *[VNA]* 40
Spokesman Rejects Nationals Voting in Cambodia *[AFP]* 41
Vo Van Kiet Receives Burmese Agriculture Minister *[VNA]* 41
Radio Views Finnish Development Assistance Programs *[Hanoi International]* 41
Justice Delegation Visits France *[VNA]* 42
Vo Van Kiet Receives Outgoing Nigerian Envoy *[VNA]* 42

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

U.S. Request for Troops Given 'Serious' Thought *[Melbourne International]* 43
Huge Oil, Gas Project Off West Coast Approved *[Melbourne International]* 43

Papua New Guinea

Hospital Said Burned; Rebels Accuse Government *[Melbourne International]* 43
Rebel Leader Apologizes for Report *[Melbourne International]* 43
Wingti on Plan To Open U.S., Asian Trade Offices *[Melbourne Radio]* 43

Japan

Government Support 'Growing' To Scrap Rice Ban

OW0912160192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1545 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—There is growing support within the government for Japan to accept replacing its foreign rice ban with tariffs and seek improved conditions for its farmers with the least impact on global trade talks, government sources said Wednesday.

With the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks coming to a final conclusion, many in the government are saying Japan has limited options, even if it tries to fight for conditions, the sources said.

On Tuesday, Masami Tanabu, agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister, flew to Washington and repeated Japan's opposition to the inclusion of rice in a comprehensive tariffication plan at a meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, who brushed off the plea.

Hills suggested the United States would not back Japan's efforts to exempt rice from the proposed replacement of farm import barriers with tariffs at the talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a Japanese official accompanying Tanabu said.

As widely expected, Tanabu's meeting with Hills ended with no progress, the sources said, quoting one government official as saying, "What the U.S. said was predictable. As if he (Tanabu) was going to be slapped in the head."

Tanabu's visit, hastily arranged by the prime minister's office, was only meant to demonstrate the desperation of Japan's position to the Japanese people and create a domestic mood that Japan must make a concession for the Uruguay Round to be successfully concluded, the sources said.

The draft final proposal, offered last December by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, provides that all nontariff measures such as quantitative restrictions on imports be converted into tariffs, which would be progressively reduced by a minimum of 15 percent over a six-year period.

The proposal, at the same time, stipulates "special safeguard" measures to increase tariffs or introduce quantitative restrictions in case of an unexpected buildup of imports, which considerably reflects Japan's demands, the sources said.

While expecting it would be quite difficult to make changes in the Dunkel proposal as requested by Japan, the sources said there still remains room for negotiations to set higher tariffs to restrain rice imports.

Also there is an option of imposing specific duties on rice in terms of yen figures per kilogram, they said.

Such duties would have the effect of raising the price of cheaper foreign rice and thus restraining imports, they said.

It may be possible to postpone introduction of the tariffication scheme for rice, given the reduction by the United States and European Community in farm protection measures may take time, they said.

Some officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party have begun to show a flexible stance on the issue, hinting at the need for preparing conditional offers to be made in stages.

Although it would be difficult for Japan to make a decision before the end of the year, many expect the Uruguay Round to be wrapped up by next January 20, when U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton takes office, the sources said.

GATT Accord 'Tariffication Without Exception'

OW1012051092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Geneva, Dec. 10 KYODO—Informal farm talks in Geneva ended inconclusively Wednesday, as last month's agreement between the United States and the European Community (EC) triggered new disputes over proposals to institute comprehensive tariffication, sources close to the talks said.

During the two-hour informal meeting of senior negotiators from 14 major nations, the U.S. and the EC maintained that their farm agreement is in line with the principle of comprehensive tariffication targeted for the Uruguay Round of multilateral talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the sources said.

Calling the U.S.-EC agreement unfair, Japan, South Korea, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, and other nations said they would face difficulties if the tariffication plan goes into effect, the sources said.

Due to the disputes, the meeting closed without a decision on when the next meeting will be held, the sources said.

Japan's representative Jiro Shiwaku, vice farm minister for international affairs, strongly stated that the U.S.-EC agreement to reduce exports of subsidized farm products by 21 percent amounts to a revision of the tariffication without exception, a proposal made in December by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel in an effort to bring the six-year-old talks to a conclusion.

Shiwaku said that it would not be fair to approve the bilateral agreement because it is not within the limits embodied in Dunkel's proposal, and since it does not provide Japan with an exception for rice imports.

Japan maintains that it should be allowed to continue banning rice imports because rice is a staple food.

Also on Wednesday, Dunkel expressed understanding of Japan's concerns when he met with two senior officials of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), according to LDP sources who accompanied them.

The party sources quoted the GATT director general as saying that the final draft proposal is already out of his hands, and if negotiators agree on a revision, he will serve as a mediator.

His remarks came in response to Kosuke Hori, head of the LDP's Farm, Forestry, and Marine Product Export Committee, who told Dunkel that opening of rice market would lead to an extremely unstable political situation in Japan and thus shake the world economy, the LDP sources said.

Hori and other party officials also held talks with other senior GATT officials and U.S. negotiators to reaffirm Japan's opposition to opening its rice market to comprehensive tariffication, the sources said.

Watanabe on 'Best Chance' To End Trade Talks

OW1012053392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0509 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The short period now remaining until the change in the U.S. presidency offers the best chance to conclude the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Thursday.

He made the comment in a meeting with senior officials of the nation's leading business organization, the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), including its chairman, Gaishi Hiraiwa.

Keidanren officials quoted Watanabe as saying that some political problems may remain in Japan, but the U.S. side is likely to ease its stance because common interests apparently exist between President George Bush, who wants to leave office on a successful note, and President-elect Bill Clinton, who does not want to be burdened with the inconclusive talks.

Kato Issues Statement on Somalia Aid Efforts

OW1012053092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0507 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The following is the full text of the statement made Thursday by Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato on Japan's policy concerning the problem in Somalia:

1. Based on the recognition that the unified efforts of the international community are indispensable for coping with the "humanitarian emergency situation" in Somalia, Japan has actively participated in drafting the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Security Council and has offered its full cooperation in its adoption by consensus.

2. In response to the resolution now adopted, the Government of Japan has decided to extend meaningful financial contribution and other cooperation. The concrete details of the contributions will be finalized as the whole picture of the present operation takes shape. Japan also intends to appeal to other countries to make appropriate contribution on the basis of the resolution.

3. Besides the financial contribution, the Government of Japan is now considering other forms of cooperation such as relief and medical activities for afflicted persons to meet the needs of the areas concerned.

4. The Government of Japan intends to explore cooperation with the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) as the situation in Somalia stabilizes.

Refugee Aid to Somalia's Neighbors Considered

OW1012042492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0404 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japan is considering assisting countries neighboring Somalia with medical aid and in handling refugees, but will not send personnel to Somalia as long as there is armed strife, the top government spokesman said Thursday.

"There is military force being used in Somalia. We are not thinking of going there under these conditions," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference.

He said that any assistance to neighboring countries would be arranged through the United Nations.

Japan has not yet received any word from the U.N. on needs of neighboring countries, he added.

Kato made the comments after issuing a written statement pledging Japan's full support for a U.N.-authorized, U.S.-led military operation to deliver food to starving Somalis.

In the statement he reiterated that Japan will make a "suitable" contribution, to be decided after the magnitude of operations becomes clear.

Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday that Japan will probably provide over 100 million dollars to the multinational forces.

Kato also urged other countries to make financial contributions commensurate with their economic ability.

He said that Japan would consider participating in U.N. peacekeeping operations after stability is restored.

In Okinawa, the U.S. Forces Japan announced that about 375 Marines and officers from bases in Okinawa and Hawaii will be deployed to Somalia to assist with the operation, code-named Operation Restore Hope.

They will link up with Marines from Camp Pendelton in California before their deployment.

The Marines are specialists in logistics, communications, administration, and policing.

Future Israeli Foreign Minister Visit Shortened

OW1012115692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' official visit to Japan from next Monday has been shortened by two days, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Peres, originally scheduled to visit from December 14 to 19, will instead leave Japan on December 17 to deal with fresh developments in the Middle East peace process, the ministry said.

Peres is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and the international trade and industry minister.

He will also meet Emperor Akihito and leaders of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), the most powerful economic club.

Israel's Foreign Ministry has reportedly said Peres will urge Japanese officials during his visit to influence companies to do more business with the Jewish state.

Israel has praised Japan for calling last week for Arab countries to drop their economic boycott of Israel, the main source of discouragement for Japanese companies.

Japan says its move was taken in response to the Israeli Government's partial suspending of construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A top Japanese Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday interest in ties with Israel among Japanese politicians and the general populace has tended to lag behind their interest in Arab countries.

He said the government is working to rectify the imbalance, partly because upgraded bilateral political and economic ties, as well as intellectual exchanges, will have the effect of giving Japan a bigger voice in the Middle East peace process.

Peres' visit will be the third to Japan by an Israeli foreign minister.

As part of efforts to raise its profile in the peace process, Japan has been inviting senior officials from Middle Eastern countries to visit Tokyo.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' came last month, Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Musa is expected around January 20 and Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir has been invited to pay an early visit.

Saeb Eriqat [name as received], the second highest member of the Palestinian delegation in the bilateral track of the peace talks, will come in mid-January and a delegation from the Israeli Government's nemesis, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), is expected early next year.

'Party Sources' on Miyazawa's Cabinet Reshuffle

OW1012123792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed reluctance Thursday to select Koko Sato, chairman of the ruling party's Executive Council, to become the party's policy-making board chief, party sources said.

Miyazawa met Michio Watanabe and urged him remain as deputy prime minister and foreign minister but disapproved of Watanabe's recommendation to shift Sato to head the Policy Affairs Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Sato, who belongs to the faction led by Watanabe, was convicted of bribery in the Lockheed payoff scandal.

The prime minister hopes for Kabun Muto, chairman of the LDP's Tax System Council, to become policy board head, aides to Miyazawa said. Muto is a member of Watanabe's party faction.

Miyazawa also met Seiroku Kajiyama and urged him to assume the post of the LDP's secretary general, LDP sources said.

The sources said Miyazawa is certain to appoint Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, who leads a party faction, as chairman of the decision-making Executive Council.

Miyazawa is scheduled to reshuffle the cabinet and party leadership Friday following Thursday's adjournment of the extraordinary Diet session.

He told faction leaders over the telephone he will revitalize his cabinet by picking younger talent to dispel public distrust in the government triggered by the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal, the sources said.

Miyazawa earlier vowed to remove the ill effects of factionalism. Cabinet and top executive posts of the LDP have always been allocated according to the relative strength of the factions and based on lists of names given by them.

The largest faction founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita holds six posts in the current Miyazawa cabinet, the Mitsuzuka faction and the Watanabe faction hold four each, the faction led by former State Minister Toshio Komoto three, the Miyazawa faction two and the group headed by former Farm Minister Mutsuki Kato one post.

Former Science and Technology Chief Yohei Kono will succeed Koichi Kato as chief cabinet secretary, the sources said, while Yoshiro Mori, Yoshiro Hayashi and

Yuji Tsushima, have been tipped as candidates for finance minister to replace Tsutomu Hata.

Opposition's Resolution Demands Sagawa Probe

OW0912111692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0625 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Three major opposition parties jointly submitted a resolution to the House of Representatives Wednesday demanding to get to the bottom of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

The resolution, presented by the Social Democratic Party, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party, said the alleged involvement by a mobster in the 1987 election of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita damaged public trust in government.

The resolution criticized Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for being reluctant to thoroughly investigate the scandal.

The three parties on Tuesday submitted a motion urging Takeshita to resign from the Diet over allegations that he used ties with a mobster in his rise to power.

In Diet testimony as a sworn witness Takeshita denied his involvement in the scandal and said he would not give up his Diet seat. He testified that he only knew of the mobster's mediation after his mentor, Shin Kanemaru, told him the facts in December 1988.

But Hiroyasu Watanabe, dismissed president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct trucking firm at the center of the scandal, tells a different story.

According to a deposition by Watanabe, while Takeshita was vying for the LDP presidency and prime ministership, Kanemaru asked Watanabe to obtain help from the mob. Watanabe enlisted the aid of Susumu Ishii, the late leader of Japan's second largest underworld syndicate Inagawa-kai, in efforts to stop a smear campaign by a rightist group against Takeshita in 1987.

Watanabe said he was "thanked" by Takeshita when the two met at a restaurant in October 1987.

Meanwhile, a group of LDP's younger Diet members issued a statement calling on Takeshita to resign from the party.

Shokei Arai, leader of the group, told reporters Takeshita has moral and political responsibilities for causing public distrust in government because of the scandal.

Arai said it is up to voters to decide whether Takeshita resign or not.

Survey Reveals Excess Labor of Big Manufacturers

OW0812142692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0951 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—For the first time in five years, more large manufacturers surveyed reported a surplus of workers than those who said they had a shortage, the Labor Ministry said Tuesday.

Some 18 percent of large manufacturers with 1,000 workers or more said they have excess workers, while 13 percent of them reported a shortage, according to a ministry survey conducted in November on 2,410 manufacturers and nonmanufacturers.

The labor-surplus percentage was higher than the shortage figure for the first time since the ministry started compiling the quarterly statistics in November 1987.

The ministry said the findings underscore the depth of the current economic downturn, in which sluggish demand has depressed production, reducing the need for some workers hired during the so-called "bubble" economic boom.

The large manufacturers' perception that their labor forces have become too big is shared by smaller manufacturers and nonmanufacturers.

The diffusion index of labor situations for the entire manufacturing industry stood at 12, sharply down from 25 in the previous study done in August.

The index is the percentage of companies who feel a labor shortage minus that of companies burdened with surplus labor.

The index for wholesalers, retailers, and food service companies dropped 6 points to 12, while that for the service sector came to 29, a 3 point decrease.

Many companies cited slumping demand as their reason for saying they have a labor shortage. Wholesalers, retailers, and food service sector companies said they believe rising labor costs are a primary burden.

The survey also said 33 percent of manufacturers have carried out some measures to reduce their work forces, compared with 30 percent who did so according to the August report.

For retailers, wholesalers, and food service sector companies, the current figure for work force reduction was 24 percent, unchanged from August, and for service industry companies it was 22 percent, compared with 18 percent in the August report.

Tertiary Industry Activity Retreats in 3d Quarter

OW0812095492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0727 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Business activity in the tertiary industry in the July-September period retreated

a seasonally adjusted 0.4 percent from the previous quarter, posting a second straight quarterly decline for the first time on record, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Tuesday.

Businesses in the tertiary industry, which includes most industrial sectors except manufacturing and farming, continued to be sluggish amid the nation's economic slowdown, the ministry said in its quarterly survey report.

The business activity index for the tertiary industry in the third quarter of 1992 stood at 135.7, against 100 in the base year of 1985, up 0.1 percent from the same period last year. In the April-June period, the index declined 0.2 percent from the previous quarter and rose 0.7 percent from the corresponding period one year earlier.

The 0.1 percent yearly increase was the smallest growth in the figure since the survey was started in 1973, except for a four-quarter streak of year-on-year declines from the January-March period through the October-December quarter in 1974, the ministry said.

Wholesale, retail, and restaurant business activity fell 2.2 percent from the previous three months due to declining demand amid dull private consumption and stagnant corporate operation, after a 0.3 percent rise in the April-June period.

Transportation and telecommunications businesses marked a 0.4 percent quarterly decline after a 0.5 percent rise in the April-June period, while service businesses posted a second successive quarterly fall, down 0.2 percent following a 0.5 percent drop in the previous quarter.

In contrast, business in the financial and insurance sectors grew 1.4 percent, mainly due to an increase in transactions by the securities industry.

Activity was also up 1.4 percent in the real estate sector and 1.5 percent in the public utilities sector.

Tokyo Urged To Accept More Foreign Students

OW0812142092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—A panel of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decided Tuesday to call on the government and an economic organization to make better arrangements for foreign students who hope to study in Japan, party officials said.

The LDP panel, chaired by Takashi Kosugi, an LDP member of the House of Representatives, presented the request to the government and the Federation of Economic Organization (Keidanren) after compiling a proposal on more effective and substantive ways of accepting students who want to study in the country.

The panel said in the proposal that the central and prefectural governments as well as private enterprise should attach more importance on student exchange programs with other countries. Such programs have been an important international contribution for Japan, it said.

The panel said it is necessary for universities and other educational institutions to build better research opportunities for foreign students.

In addition, the government should review the system under which foreign students must find a Japanese guarantor before arriving in Japan, the proposal said.

The panel also said the government should increase the opportunities for foreign students to take Japanese language examinations, an essential condition to succeeding in studies in Japan.

As of May 1991, about 45,000 foreign students were in Japan, more than six times the number of 10 years ago, Education Ministry officials said.

Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone made a proposal in 1983 to allow 100,000 foreign students to study in Japan by 2000.

First Radioactive Waste Delivered to Center

OW0812023892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0214 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Rokkasho, Aomori Pref., Dec. 8 KYODO—Japan's low-level radioactive waste storage center took its first load of waste Tuesday—a shipment that arrived by sea and road from a nuclear power plant in Ibaraki Prefecture.

A spokesman for Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd., operator of the Rokkasho storage facility, said the waste was in 1,480 drums and came from a nuclear power plant run by the state-run Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. at Tokai in Ibaraki Prefecture.

The drums were shipped from Tokai to Rokkasho in northeastern Honshu via the nearby port of Mutsu Ogawara.

Guarded by riot police, 12 trucks began ferrying the 200-liter drums from the port to the facility about nine kilometers away. Placing the drums in storage will take until late Wednesday, the spokesman said.

The storage facility is part of the Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel Cycle Center, which has an already-operating uranium enrichment plant and a fuel reprocessing plant to produce plutonium from spent nuclear fuel that is due to start operating next March.

The facility has a current capacity to store 50,000 drums, but ultimately will take about 60 years worth of waste, or some three million drums, from domestic nuclear facilities. The plan is to store the waste for about 300 years.

The nation's nuclear power plants currently hold about 480,000 barrels of waste.

The nuclear power industry plans to ship some 25,000 to 50,000 barrels to the facility each year.

The reinforced concrete facility is more than 10 meters below ground in bedrock to make it hard for groundwater to seep in.

Completion of the 160 billion yen facility was delayed for 18 months because of the need to redesign it to ensure it would not contaminate groundwater.

Fishermen in the region have expressed concern about the sea transportation of the waste as the route off northeastern Honshu is the scene of frequent accidents, particularly in spring and summer when the area is prone to fog.

The specially equipped 4,053-ton transport ship Seiei Maru will ferry up to 3,000 drums on each of more than 10 trips a year to bring waste from nuclear power stations to the Mutsu Ogawara Port.

To guard against collisions, the ship has two radars and is double hulled to prevent it from sinking.

In June, a Maritime Safety Agency vessel collided in thick fog with a cargo ship off Hachinohe, about 50 kilometers south of Rokkasho.

In an area known for its high squid catch, the incident prompted worries among the fishing fraternity about loss of sales because of fears of contamination in the event of an accident.

To add to the concern, high-level radioactive waste will also be transported from 1995 on completion of a high-level waste storage facility at the same center.

The Rokkasho facility is the first of its kind in Japan for storing low-level radioactive waste such as cleaning water and work clothes from domestic nuclear power plants. The waste is set in concrete inside the drums.

It is the second fully operating facility at the center. The uranium enrichment plant began commercial production in last March.

Researchers on Uranium Waste Depository Radiation

OW0812134492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tottori, Dec. 8 KYODO—Two uranium waste depositories in western Japan pollute their surroundings with radiation far beyond the legally allowed limit, researchers of Osaka and Kyoto Universities said Tuesday.

The sites in the Asahata and Katamo Districts in Togocho, Tottori Prefecture, are run by Power Reactor and Fuel Development Co. of Japan (Donen), which dumps the waste of its uranium mining there.

The researchers found the concentration of the highly radioactive, lung-cancer causing gas radon in the air close to the depositories was 500 to 1,100 times higher than the average observed at other places.

Radons originate in the atomic disintegration of uranium residues which the waste still contains.

The survey carried out by Osaka University's physics department in cooperation with seven antinuclear groups of Tottori Prefecture in June and July measured 5,670 becquerels per cubic meter of air at the edge of the Katamo depository, whose pit has been covered with sandbags.

On the moat surrounding the waste pit, the radiation measured 2,390 becquerels. The legally allowed limit for radon concentration in open air pits is 300 becquerels, the researchers said.

The law also stipulates that places with a high radiation be declared restricted areas and precautions taken so the surrounding areas are not exposed to more than 9 becquerels, they said.

However, scientists of the nuclear test center of Kyoto University found the air outside the Asahata site was polluted with radons measuring 350 becquerels per cubic meter.

The antinuclear groups said the high radiation threatened their lives and health and urged the waste be removed as soon as possible. "The dumping of this waste is a human rights problem," a spokesman for the activists said.

Donen said in March the air's radon concentration did not exceed 117 to 119 becquerels at both sites. "Radiation is within the usual limits," a company statement said.

New Technologies Studied for Nuclear Plants

OW0812095292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0903 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Japan's electric power companies are studying the possibility of building nuclear power plants on less solid structures than commonly used bedrock, industry sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the industry, in an effort to solve the difficult problem of securing new sites for the unpopular nuclear plants, is considering building facilities on the sea, underground, or softer grounds than bedrock.

The idea received a government panel's backing at a meeting last week, which said there is "a need to study (such possibilities) from a medium- to long-term point of view in order to widen the options of nuclear sites."

The Central Research Institute of the electric power industry, a think tank participated in by Japan's nine

electricity firms, has already launched research concerning technologies needed to build nuclear plants on such sites. A report on the ongoing research is scheduled to be completed in three years.

The institute of energy economics, another private-sector think tank, released a report last spring on the feasibility of underground plants as well as two other possibilities.

Each of the three possibilities is considered "technologically feasible," especially on softer ground sites, according to studies made thus far. Tokyo Electric Power Co. and the Central Research Institute jointly built a model for nuclear plants on softer grounds in Taiwan.

Problems remain, however, of whether the plants would be economical and whether communities would accept them, the sources said.

Despite such hurdles, however, the industry sounds optimistic, with one industry official saying, "I'm confident these new methods will become a reality in the near future."

North Korea

Ministry Official Says Treaty With Russia Still Effective

SK1012044692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT 10 Dec 92

["Spokesman of DPRK Foreign Ministry Interviewed by KCNA"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—During his South Korean trip, Yeltsin talked about "abrogation or revision" of the alliance treaty concluded between the DPRK and the former Soviet Union and about "suspension of military aid" to the DPRK.

The South Korean authorities made a fuss as if it were an "important event," and this was reported by media of some countries recently.

About this a spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry told KCNA Wednesday:

Media of some countries recently relayed the report of the South Korean authorities contending that the "abrogation or revision" of the alliance treaty signed between the DPRK and the former Soviet Union and the "suspension of military aid" to the DPRK mentioned by Yeltsin during his South Korean trip were an "important event."

This reveals that those media were not well informed of the fact.

As far as the alliance treaty is concerned, it was signed between the DPRK and the former Soviet Union some 30 years ago and, as everyone knows, it is not suited to the realities today. Therefore, we had recommended the Russian Federation to produce a modified draft of the treaty.

The Russian authorities, however, officially announced through a statement of a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry late July their position that this treaty "remains effective on a full scale." And they still suggest to us that this treaty should be maintained as it is.

As seen above, this treaty is a bilateral treaty between the DPRK and the Russian Federation and the position toward it had been manifested. It is a matter which should be discussed and settled between the parties concerned, not a matter for Russia to discuss with the South Korean authorities.

And there are points that should be made clearer as to the fact that the Russian Federation said it had suspended "military aid" to the DPRK.

Our defence building is strictly based on the principle of self-reliance. Never have we received free military aid from the Russian Federation.

Commercial relations have already been established between the DPRK and the Russian Federation in different sectors including the military domain. The Russian Federation proposes to maintain such commercial relations.

It does not make sense that Russia "rendered" and "will not render" military aid to the DPRK.

The South Korean authorities, however, are ridiculously spreading an insidious rumour about the "alliance treaty" which is of little significance and about the non-existent "military aid" of Russia, as if something serious had happened.

We believe that the press whose mission it is to report only justice and truth will judge what the ulterior intention of the South Korean authorities is.

Reportage on Pyongyang Meeting of Intellectuals

Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Attend

SK0912115692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1115 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—A Korean intellectuals meeting opened Wednesday with a large attendance at the February 8 house of culture.

It is a significant meeting which will prove the validity and vitality of the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea toward intellectuals, the party which is successfully solving the problem of intellectuals on the basis of the great chuche idea for the first time in history in accomplishing the revolutionary cause of the working class, and a loyal meeting which will demonstrate the unshakable will of the Korean intellectuals to resolutely defend and add shine to the cause of socialism, the party's cause, in whatever raging storm.

Participating in the meeting are 6,000 intellectuals of distinguished services who represent intellectuals in the domains of science, education, culture and art, health care, the press, and all other fields of the country.

The members of a delegation of Korean intellectuals in Japan staying in the socialist homeland are present at the meeting.

A portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is placed on the platform of the 6,000-seat meeting place against the backdrop of the flag of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It is flanked on either side by the slogans "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Long live the glorious Workers' Party of Korea!". Hanging on the background of the platform are the letters reading "Korean intellectuals meeting", with red lags bearing the words "Eternal companions, faithful helpers and good advisors to the party and ardent defenders and strict executers of the party's policies" unfurled.

Slogans reading "Let the Korean intellectuals be revolutionary soldiers unfailingly faithful to the party and the leader!" and "Let us add shine to socialism of our style with the might of single-hearted unity!" are hung out in the meeting place.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, stepped on to the platform while the band played the welcome music.

That moment, stormy cheers of "hurrah!" and thunderous applause rocked the meeting place.

Also appearing on the platform were O Chin-u, member of the presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and minister of People's Armed Forces; Vice-presidents Yi Chong- ok and Pak Song-chol, premier of the Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk, Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang, who are Politburo members of the WPK Central Committee; Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho and Han Song-yong, Politburo members and secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; So Yun-sok, chief secretary of the South Phyongan provincial party committee and chairman of the South Pyongan provincial people's committee, and Kang Song-san, chief secretary of the North Hamgyong provincial party committee and chairman of the North Hamgyong provincial people's committee, who are Politburo members of the WPK Central Committee; Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the party Central Committee, and Choe Yong-nim, Vice-premier of the administration council, who are alternate Politburo members of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Chol-man, alternate Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee; Hong Song-nam, Hong Si-hak and Kim Pok-sin, alternate Politburo members of og biwal-jaaral committee and Vice-premiers of the administration council; Kim Chung-rin, Yun Ki-pok, Kim Yong-sun, Hwang Chang-yop, So Kwan-hui and Pak Nam-ki, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Kim Chang-chu, Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Tal-hyon and Chang Chol, Vice-premiers of the administration council; Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the state inspection commission; academicians, professors and doctors and other holders of academic degrees and professorship and intellectuals of meritorious services in the domains of science, education, culture and art, health care and the press.

Also taking the platform were Kwon Sun-hwi, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean residents in Japan, whm is heading the delegation of Korean intellectuals in Japan, and Yi Si-ku, chairman of the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Scientists and Technicians in Japan.

At the meeting Vice-president Yi Chong-ok read a congratulatory message to the Korean intellectuals meeting from the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

A congratulatory group of the Korean Children's Union entered the meeting place when "Song of General Kim Il-song" was sung in chorus.

The congratulatory group presented bouquets of fragrant flowers to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Then the group read a congratulatory message to the Korean intellectuals meeting.

Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the Party Central Committee, delivered a report at the meeting.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

The meeting continues.

Kim Il-song Works Guide Intellectuals

SK0912064892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song made public hundreds of works in the past 40 odd years which indicate the way for the intellectuals to follow.

"Tasks Confronting Intellectuals in Nation-building," "Cadres Are Pillars in Building New Korea," "Our Intellectuals Must Be Revolutionaries Faithful to the Party, the Working Class and the People" and many other works are speeches, concluding speeches, talks and answers which he made public at important meetings of the party and the state and during his on-the-spot guidance.

Clarified in the works are the role and importance of intellectuals in the building of a new society, theories of making old intellectuals genuine ones by believing and embracing them, and tasks and ways for their implementation.

Works clarify the necessity of revolutionizing and working-classizing intellectuals and its significance, honorable duty and tasks confronting intellectuals in defending and advancing the socialist cause of chuche.

"The Role of Intellectuals in Building an Independent New Society," "For the Development of National Culture of Newly-Emerging Countries" and other works give perfect answers to theoretical and practical questions in accomplishing the cause of making the world independent and building an independent new society.

Vice President Reads Party Letter

SK0912120492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1131 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and Vice-president, conveyed a congratulatory letter of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK to the Korean intellectuals meeting which has opened here today.

The Korean intellectuals meeting is a significant meeting which demonstrates the unbreakable faith and unswerving will of all the Korean intellectuals to defend our-style socialism centred on the popular masses and further glorify it, united in one mind around the party and the leader, and a historical meeting which provides an epoch-making occasion for enhancing the role of intellectuals in strengthening the driving force of revolution and accelerating socialist construction, the letter says, and goes on:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave a new exposition of the position and role of the intellectuals in the revolutionary movement of the working class and advanced a unique, chuche-oriented policy towards intellectuals. When our party was founded, he defined the intellectuals as its component together with the workers and peasants and took an original measure to have a writing brush inscribed in the party emblem together with a hammer and a sickle.

Under our party's unique policy towards intellectuals and wise guidance, the Korean intellectuals fully displayed their heroic mettle and indomitable fighting spirit in the building of a new country after the liberation, in the struggle for defending the people's power and the gains of revolution in the grim fatherland liberation war and in the postwar rehabilitation and construction, socialist revolution and socialist construction, the letter notes, and stresses:

In the period of a historical turn of our revolution in which the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea has come into the limelight, the intellectuals, true to our party's leadership, have made strenuous efforts to push ahead with the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, and make a great leap in the development of the independent national economy and socialist national culture. Thus, they have greatly contributed to consolidating the organizational and ideological foundations of our party and effecting a new upsurge in all fields of the revolution and construction.

The precious efforts and heroic struggle of our talented and industrious intellectuals who have steadfastly walked the road of revolution, always remaining true to the party's leadership, have left their marks in all the material and cultural wealth created by our people including modern factories and enterprises built and run with our own resources and efforts and grand monumental edifices and all the gains of our-style socialism in which the popular masses are the master of the country.

At a time when the imperialists and the reactionaries are intensifying their anti-socialist, anti-DPRK moves as never before, our intellectuals are faithfully struggling to defend our-style socialism centred on the popular masses and glorify it still further with a firm conviction of socialism, closely united behind the party.

Our country which had only a small number of intellectuals after the liberation now has 1,600,000 reliable scientists, technicians and specialists loyal to the party and the leader, possessed of advanced science and technology, expert knowledge and rich experience. This is a great victory of the policy of our party that has greatly treasured the intellectuals and reared them with so much efforts and a great pride and pleasure for our party and people.

Today our party and people are faced with important tasks to further consolidate and develop our-style socialism centred on the popular masses, win the complete victory of socialism, achieve an independent reunification of the country and successfully accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche by implementing to the letter the general line of socialist construction advanced by Comrade Kim Il-song, says the letter.

Noting that loyalty to the party and the leader is the life and soul of Korean intellectuals and their proudest tradition, the letter calls on all the intellectuals to become eternal companions, faithful helpers and good advisors to our party in the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche and to steadfastly defend and thoroughly implement the party's policies.

Our intellectuals should bring up the rising generation to be chuche-type men knowledgeable, virtuous and healthy, and able scientists, technicians and specialists, and should accelerate the intellectualization of all of society, bring into bloom and develop the socialist national culture in an all-around way and proceed with the chuche-orientation, modernization and scientization of the national economy, thus further increasing the potential of the independent national economy, it says, and adds:

All intellectuals should fully establish the chuche-based revolutionary outlook on the leader and staunchly fight for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche, trusting and following only the party and the leader, adhering to the revolutionary faith and principle and always sharing the same destiny with the party under any complicated circumstances.

Dailies Praise Meeting

SK0912071992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 9 Dec 92

["Papers Editorially Greet Korean Intellectuals Meeting"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—Pyongyang-based papers today dedicate editorials to the grand Korean intellectuals meeting opening here today.

The editorial of NODONG SINMUN under the title "Meeting of Loyalty of Korean Intellectuals Vigorously Fighting Under Party Leadership" says:

The Korean intellectuals meeting opening amid the great expectation and special interest of our party is a proud meeting which will record a brilliant chapter in the history of the glorious revolutionary struggle of our people to resolutely defend and glorify the cause of our socialism under the banner of the chuche idea.

The meeting will mark a significant occasion in powerfully demonstrating the indomitable faith and unshakable will of the Korean intellectuals to uphold their leader with loyalty and filial piety, with deep reverence for him.

Through the meeting, the noble spiritual and moral traits of our intellectuals who regard loyalty to the party and the leader as their life and soul will be fully demonstrated at home and abroad, and the trust of the intellectuals in our party will deepen still further.

The meeting will also mark a significant occasion in making a new turn in the struggle to resolutely defend and brilliantly accomplish our socialism which is vigorously advancing under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

The meeting will serve as a milestone in making the entire intellectuals firmly believe that they will win when they defend socialism, and they will fall when they give it up, and enabling them to promote the building of socialism on a new, higher stage, full of conviction and optimism. With the meeting as an occasion, the experiences of faithful intellectuals who have set examples in successfully defending the purity of the great chuche idea and the socialist idea and implementing the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions will be broadly discussed and generalized. This will bring into full play the revolutionary enthusiasm and creative wisdom of our entire intellectuals, bring about a new upswing in the building of socialism and the development of chuche science and technology of the nation and accelerate the complete victory of socialism.

The meeting will be recorded as a revolutionary meeting which gives conviction and optimism to the revolutionary intellectuals of our times in defending independence and socialism and deals a heavy blow at the imperialists and reactionaries trying to block the advance of socialism.

The editorial of MINJU CHOSON says the convocation of the Korean intellectuals meeting is a proud demonstration of the validity of our party's policy toward intellectuals and an expression of our party's deep trust and expectation for the intellectuals.

Devotion to Socialism Lauded

SK0812100892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 5 Dec 92

["Korean Central News Agency Information on DPRK Intellectuals"]

[Text] The intellectual problem—which will influence the success of the revolution and the future destiny of the nation—is being brilliantly solved in our country. The national cadres, that is, intellectuals whom our party has brought up since the first period of building new Korea, are infinitely devoting themselves to the cause of socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses.

The national cadres of our country right after national liberation [in 1945] virtually amounted to nothing.. At that time, there was no college in the northern half of the Republic and those intellectuals who had a college education background were only a few. The rank of our intellectuals has been brought up to the large unit of 1.6 million today.

The large unit of intellectuals who have outstandingly managed, operated, and developed all fields of the country—political, economic, and cultural—and who have devoted themselves only to the revolution with firm faith in socialism and without seeking a comfortable life is the greatest and most precious asset of our country.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The correctness and vitality of the unique policy on intellectuals of our party—which, regarding intellectuals as a component part of the main force of the revolution, constantly enhances their role and looks after and assumes esponsibility for their destiny to the end—has been clearly proven by practice.

When he defined intellectuals, along with workers and farmers, as a component part of the main force of the revolution and as a component part of the party and, thus, founded the party with his noble ideal the great leader saw to it that pen, which symbolizes intellectuals, was engraved on the party's mark along with hammer and sickle.

Based on the scientific analysis of the position and role of intellectuals in the revolution and construction our party has not only trained and brought up on a large scale chuche-type intellectuals who can devote themselves to the Korean revolution, but has also wisely led them to become genuine revolutionaries. The birth in our country of the large unit of intellectuals armed with the chuche idea and with a great wealth of knowledge of science and technology is not only a brilliant result of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's wise leadership, but is also a great demonstration of the correctness and vitality of our party's policy on intellectuals.

The Brilliant Chronicle in Which the Large Unit of Revolutionary Intellectuals Has Been Brought Up

The rank of national cadres, that is, intellectuals, has constantly increased thanks to the party's wise policy on intellectuals since the first period of building new Korea.

Right after national liberation, when national intellectuals were very short as the aftermath of the Japanese imperialists' rule and when the absolute majority of our population was far backward from modern technology and civilization, the respected and beloved leader discerned the situation of the country and set forth a policy of giving priority to education over other sectors. In the first meeting of the North Korean Provisional People's Committee in February 1946 he discussed the issue of pencil production as its agenda item.

The great leader, who had promoted the founding of people's colleges even under the difficult situation of the country at that time, saw to it that patriotic teachers were found and picked up across the country and that they wrote and compiled textbooks by pooling their wisdom. He also designated the sites for colleges and saw to it that the rice donated by farmers was exchanged for money and used as the funds for founding colleges.

Our people unanimously launched the work of founding colleges under the leadership of the great leader, pooling their wisdom. As a result, they founded Kim Il-song University, the first university of the people, in October 1946. With Kim Il-song University as the parent body, an engineering college, medical college, and teachers college were established in succession. Thus, the total number of colleges by 1949 was 15. The total number of students reached some 18,000. In 1949, various colleges, including Kim Il-song University, turned out some 1,400 graduates, the first graduates. Following this, new intellectuals were constantly trained and brought up. Thus, the problem of training national cadres, which was urgently required in building new Korea, began to be solved.

In our country, even in the period of the fierce fatherland liberation war, unprecedented in the history of war, the task of training national cadres was continuously conducted according to the policy on the wartime education work. Thanks to our party's wise and forward-looking measures for training the national cadres who would contribute to the postwar rehabilitation and development of the national economy colleges and junior colleges were moved to safety zones, college students and teachers who were fighting in the frontline battle areas were returned to their schools, and college teachers from South Korea joined the rank of teachers after receiving re-education.

Thanks to the correct policy of the party and the state, all colleges in the northern half of the Republic conducted again their normal education work, beginning in early 1951. In July that year a first plant college was founded, and the education of learning while working began for the first time in history.

In the period of the postwar socialist construction our party paid entire party-wide and entire state-wide attention to training national cadres on a large scale to successfully carry out the basic task for the postwar rehabilitation and development of the national economy and to turn our country into an industrial state in the future.

Colleges existed before the fatherland liberation war were rebuilt and expanded. New colleges, including the construction college and veterinary and livestock college, were founded. The high education system of learning while working—which began in the days of the war—was further developed. The total of 19 colleges during the Three-Year Plan were increased to 78 colleges during the Five-Year Plan. The number of junior colleges also rapidly increased. Some 20 plant colleges were founded in large plants and enterprises in 1960. The total number of college students that year was 97,000. The number of those students who learned while working was some 49,000.

Thanks to our party's policy on establishing chuche in education a foundamental turn was effected in education work and, consequently, more of those national cadres firmly armed with the chuche idea and with constructive knowledge were trained and brought up, beginning in 1955. In 1960, 133,000 technicians and specialists with sound ideology and with high level of knowledge on science and technology worked in all sectors of the national economy.

Entering the period of extensive socialist construction our party not only founded more colleges, but also established chuche and working class spirit in education, guaranteed scientific nature in education and combined education and production. Thus, our party actively conducted the work of training technicians in conformity with the rapidly developing production capability and technological revolution of the country.

During the First Seven-Year Economic Plan colleges increased from 78 to 129, and the rank of technicians and specialists reached 497,000. The work of building a large army of intellectuals was carried out under our party's leadership at a higher stage in the 1970's. As the struggle to carry out the task of building a large army of intellectuals set forth at the Fifth Congress of our party and the task set forth by the great education theses was

vigorously carried out the education system which devotes exclusively to school studies and the education system of learning while working were rapidly developed. As a result, numerous technicians and specialists were brought up.

In our country, a large army of one million intellectuals were brought up in 1975. On the strength of this, it was possible to brilliantly fulfill ahead of schedule the task set forth by the Fifth Congress of the party.

Amid the struggle to thoroughly carry out the Thesis on Socialist Education colleges increased on a continuous basis. During the period from 1971 to 1980 the number of colleges increased from 129 to 170, and the rank of revolutionary intellectuals exceeded one million. Great progress was made in the task of training national cadres in the 1980's by holding the policy of assimilating the entire society into the intelligentia, and the rank of intellectuals is being constantly expanded in the 1990's, as well.

Many new colleges, including junior colleges, were founded. Plant colleges, farm colleges, and fish farm colleges were strengthened and rebuilt. As a result, these colleges increased from some 260 in the end of the 1908's to some 280 at present.

The rank of intellectuals of our country today reaches 1.6 million, an increase of 140,000 over the end of the 1908's. This is a large army of intellectuals, a large army of technicians and specialists, which is unprecedented in our history. The many intellectuals our party has constantly brought up so far are reliable revolutionary men who are able to extensively develop all sectors of the country—political, economic, and cultural.

The rank of intellectuals is properly combined with those intellectuals who majored in social science and those intellectuals who majored in natural science. The intellectuals in the natural science sector are firmly prepared so that they can make the balanced development of various sectors of the national economy, including extraction industry, metal industry, machine industry, chemical industry, electronic industry, automation industry, atomic energy industry, light industry, and agriculture.

With the thorough implementation of the respected and beloved leader's great education ideology, the party's education policy, and the thesis of socialist education, the scientific and theoretical level of the education in the social science sector has been enhanced and the scientific and theoretical level of the professional technological education has been greatly enhanced based on the demands of the developing reality and on the latest success of the modern science and technology. As a reult of this, our intellectuals have come to possess high level of ability as a whole.

Approximately 1,000 intellectuals received the titles and degrees of academician, alternate academician, professor, doctor, or associate professor on an annual average beginning in the 1970's. Many of the increasing intellectuals become doctors and associate doctors in their 20's or 30's. An increasing number of intellectuals received the "Kim Il-song Prize", the title of labor hero, and the honorary titles of people's scientist, people's teacher, and people's artist, for utilizing their excellent knowledge for the fatherland and the people.

The strong and mighty unit of the revolutionary intellectuals armed with the great chuche idea and high-level knowledge and scientific technology is a great pride of the country and the people, for it guarantees the growth and development of our fatherland and its prosperity through generations.

The party's eternal companions who devote themselves to the socialist cause!

Intellectuals greatly contribute to implementing the chuche revolutionary cause, the socialist cause, in the great trust of our party. Whenever the party presents new line and policy at every stage of the developing revolution, our intellectuals have devoted all their wisdom and energy to embodying it in the great realities and have reliably guaranteed the implementation of the party policy with science and their knowledge.

There were not many intellectuals when the liberation was achieved. However, upholding the great leader's line of building the new fatherland, all of them became the vanguards of the general ideological mobilization movement for building the nation, the emulation for increasing production, and the anti-illiteracy movement, thus rising the nation-building consciousness and patriotic enthusiasm among the popular masses. In this course, as of January 1947, they rehabilitated 822 plants and enterprises including the Hwanghae iron works, which had been destroyed by the Japanese imperialists, and taught about 2.3 million illiterate people how to read and write in three years or more, thus greatly contributing to successfully promoting the building of a new democratic Korea.

During the period of the Fatherland Liberation War, when our fatherland suffered severe difficulties due to the invasion by the imperialist united armed forces headed by the U.S. imperialists, our intellectuals with guns in their hands launched into the battle with the enemies, upholding the slogan, "All for the victory in the war". Some of them worked as reporters and writers during the war. Some devoted themselves to producing arms, including various guns and shooting weapons. Thus, they greatly contributed to achieving the victory in the war.

Even under the severe situation of the life-and-death war decisive to the destiny of the fatherland, scientists and technicians continued the study of vinalon, the chuche textile; drew up the plan for building the city of Pyongyang and accelerated the preparation for rehabilitating plants and rural areas in underground laboratories with the faith in a certain victory.

During the postwar period, our intellectuals devoted all their energy and wisdom to implementing the basic line of socialist economic construction—to develop light industry and agriculture at the same time while giving the priority to developing heavy industries—which was presented by the great leader, holding it deep in their hearts.

While smashing the anti-Party factionists' paradox, saying machines do not produce rice, and interfering maneuvers by passive elements, conservatives, and those who believe in mysticism about technology, the intellectuals rehabilitated, expanded, and established anew many heavy industrial plants during the postwar period of the Three-Year Plan, by introducing 17,000 technological innovations and proposals for rationalizing production processes. They advocated and protected the basic line of socialist economic construction by producing new machines and equipment and by contributing to creating miracles throughout the country.

Technicians in Kiyang and Tokchon, mobilizing the working class' wisdom, created the miracle of manufacturing the Chollima tractor in 30 days or more and the Sungni No. 18 car in about 40 days. Technicians in the construction sector of Pyongyang, along with builders, created the surprising Pyongyang speed of setting up a house every 14 minutes, by generally introducing the prefabricated building method.

Under the flame of the great Chollima upswing, the intellectuals accomplished the studies of the steel production method with iron cokes, the copper refining method with anthracite coal, and the method of producing synthetic textile from reeds, by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, thus contributing to implementing the historic task of building the basis of socialist construction.

The intellectuals glorified their honor as thorough protectors and consummators of the party policy in the overall socialist construction in the 1960's, too.

Upholding the party's line to accomplish the socialist industrialization and to generally realize the technological innovation in all sectors of the people's economy, the intellectuals produced and generally supplied large machines and precision machines—including 6,000-ton presses, electric locomotives, and 5,000-ton ships—and modern plant facilities during the period of the First Seven-Year Plan, by vigorously carrying out the struggle to develop science and technology. Thus they contributed to placing all sectors of the people's economy, including the ferrous metallurgical industry, the chemical industry, and the light industry, on the basis of modern technology.

Thanks to the high-degree spirit of devotion and creativity displayed by our people and the revolutionary intellectuals under the flame of the great revolutionary upswing in the 1960's, our country brilliantly realized the historic task of industrialization in a short time of 14 years, while it took capitalist countries a full century or several centuries to realize it.

Even in the 1970's, in which we were faced with the tasks to realize the cause for imbuing all of society with the chuche idea, our intellectuals truly played a key role. In this period, social scientists largely explained and propagated at home and abroad the creativeness, justification, and great vitality of the great Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary idea, a monolithic system of the idea, theory, and method of chuche. They also contributed to realizing the cause for imbuing the whole society with the chuche idea by inheriting and developing our party's brilliant revolutionary tradition and by vigorously conducting their scientific and theoretical activities that propagate the superiority of our country's socialist system.

In conformity with the demands of our party's far-reaching plan, scientists and technicians have established at many plants and enterprises the production command systems by means of automation, remote control, television network, and wireless communication. They have raised the proportion of press methods by introducing assembly lines, automatic lines, and numeral control lathes in the production processes of machines and equipment, which are extensively breeding new high-yielding species. With scientific and technological methods, they have guaranteed the work of positively making plants and enterprises large, modern, and high-speed in the excavation of coal.

Scientists and technicians in the agricultural sector have greatly contributed to making our agriculture firmly stand on the new stage of modernization and industrialization by accelerating the comprehensive mechanizations of agriculture.

Under the wise leadership of our party, the writers and artistes produced in 1977 a revolutionary film, *Flame Burning All Over The World*, which contained pictures of the great leader. Following this, they produced many revolutionary films and adapted immortal classical masterpieces to film, revolutionary opera, revolutionary drama, and revolutionary novel. They produced many works of revolutionary literatures and arts by bringing a great heyday of chuche art.

Our intellectuals, who have spirit of indefinite sacrifice for the socialist cause in the 1980's and in 1990's, have increased their role in the revolution and construction. All intellectuals in the important sentry posts of ideological and cultural fronts—including the theoretical and propaganda sector, educational sector, literary and art sector, and publication and information sector—are firmly safeguarding the chuche idea in a scientific and theoretical manner, which is an ideological basis for the socialism of our own style. They are also revealing the reactionary nature of the imperialists' anti-socialist ideology and culture and are conducting their activities as

ideological standard bearers, who are resolutely opposed to the imperialists' offensive with their revolutionary ideological offensive.

Scientists and technicians have laid a scientific and technological foundation in which the important sector of science—which includes electronics, bionics, and thermal engineering—can be developed at new higher level. As a result, they have invented electronic devices, electronic computers, automatic devices, and robots with their own technology. They have produced numerical control lathes with high precision and have studied the new species of agricultural products. In addition, they have reliably guaranteed, in a scientific and technical manner, the production of modern large machine facilities, which include the construction of monumental edifices—such as the Sohae lockgate—10,000-ton press, 18,000-square meter oxygen separator, and [word indistinct] steam locomotives.

Scientists and technicians have developed science and technology in the practice for building socialism by strengthening the activities of the 17 February Shock Brigade of Scientists and the 17 February Shock Brigade of Scientists and Technicians. They have positively accelerated the chuche-orientation, modernization, and scientification of the national economy by introducing approximately 69,000 technical innovation proposals into assembly lines every year.

Our intellectuals, who are firmly confident of the final victory of the socialist cause, are now upholding the party's leadership with their faith and will, while entrusting all their fates to the great party.

Second cell party members of the Fifth Bureau in the Korean Central News Agency, poets of the Korean Literary Production Company, and all intellectuals over the country gave the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il a letter overflowing with their revolutionary faith. They are also displaying their single-hearted will to share their life with our party.

Truly, revolutionary intellectuals in Korea are not temporary companions in the road to socialism. They are, instead, eternal companions carrying out the revolution to the end with their firm faith in chuche by following our party's leadership.

Revolutionary intellectuals in Korea—who are endlessly loyal to the party and the leader and who have abundant knowledge and technology—will safeguard, adhere to, and glorify the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style and will more vigorously advance in the future, too, under the banner of the great chuche idea. [Dated] 5 December 1992.

South Korea

Government Unlikely to Join Somalia Aid Effort

SK1012012692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0111 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Washington, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—The United States hopes some of its allies will voluntarily help in its mercy mission to Somalia, but South Korea has no plans to be among them, according to a diplomatic source here.

The State Department briefed diplomats from allied nations Monday on the background of the U.N.-sponsored armed mission to supply food to starving Somalis and asked for their nations to voluntarily participate, the source said Wednesday. The Korean Government has not received a concrete request and it has not studied any measure to provide support, he told YONHAP, requesting anonymity.

A State Department official told YONHAP the United States had not asked any one particular country to take part in the mission.

U.S. Leadership 'Well-Displayed' in Somalia

SK1012052492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Crusade for Somalia"]

[Text] U.S. troops and smaller contingents from France, Canada, Italy and some other countries are arriving in famine-stricken Somalia in an international crusade unprecedented in history to feed the millions of starving people in the African country. U.S. Marines landed at beaches adjacent to Mogadishu's airport.

The contingents' primary mission is of course to crack down on bandits who have been plundering up to 80 percent of relief supplies from international sources. About 300,000 Somalis have died in a famine amidst a drawn-out clan war over the succession to ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

And yet, some 2 million more are reported to be on the brink of starvation requiring prompt food, medicine and other supplies. Thus world nations are joining in this relief mission led by the United States, a rare such move based purely on a humanitarian motivation. The United Nations intervened in the conflict and achieved a cease-fire between Mogadishu's major warlords, Mohamed Farah Aidid and Ali Mahdi Mohamed in early March, ending four months of heavy fighting but many gunmen without particular allegiance to either general continued to loot relief supplies and traded them in the city's open markets.

What is taking place in the Horn of Africa country is the worst example of the absence of nation-saving efforts by its own people and unfortunately, it is not Africa's only

sick child. The United Stats and its coalition in Operation Restore Hope are taking a proper initiative to establish an international mechanism of humanitarian operations.

The United Nations' peacekeeping role is growing following the end of the Cold War and U.S. leadership in the new world order is being well displayed in Somalia. World nations are justly hoped to be moved solely by the urgent humanitarian cause, not by any political and economic considerations.

Delegations Hold 12th JNCC Meeting Talks 10 Dec

SK1012041092 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] North and South Korea held the 12th meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] at the House of Peace in the South side area of Panmunjom this morning. Although the two sides resumed talks to work out rules for mutual nuclear inspection, they exchanged arguments over the issue of the Team Spirit ROK-U.S. joint military exercise.

Kong No-myong, the South side chairman, stressed that the resolution of the nuclear issue as the only way to make practical progress in North-South relations and for the North to improve its external relations. He then added that the two sides should resume contact between the JNCC chairmen as soon as possible, perhaps this afternoon, and make utmost efforts to adopt the inspection rules. With this done, it would still be possible to conduct mutual inspections before the North-South high-level talks scheduled for 21 December.

Chairman Kong No-myong said that if the North side rejects North- South dialogue under the pretext of the Team Spirit exercise, it would show an insincere attitude in resolving the nuclear issue. The North side will be held totally responsible for the rejection of dialogue because there are still means to resolve the issue of the Team Spirit exercise.

In response to this, Choe U-chin, the North side chairman, said that the Team Spirit exercise is hampering the creation of the atmosphere for North-South dialogue, thus reconfirming its position thus far that the decision to resume this military exercise should be withdrawn in order to resume North-South dialogue.

DPRK Agrees To Meet 17 Dec

SK1012082992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea failed again Thursday to agree on simultaneous nuclear inspection and will retry Dec. 17.

North Korea repeatedly demanded that South Korea cancel its "Team Spirit" military maneuver with the United States for next year and announce it before Dec. 15, Kong No-myong, Seoul-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC], said.

South Korea countered that it will cancel the maneuver only when North Korea agrees to at least one simultaneous nuclear inspection before Dec. 21, when the next inter-Korean prime ministers' talks are to open in Seoul. The two sides spent the entire two-and-half hour session bickering over Team Spirit, and did not get to discuss any details of inspection rules, Kong said.

But North Korea did agree to hold the next JNCC session after the Dec. 15 deadline, and a working-level contact on Dec. 14 will precede the full session. Seoul and Pyongyang are still wide apart on an inspection regime, with North Korea refusing to accept surprise inspections with 24-hour notice or to open up its military installations.

South Korea and the United States canceled Team Spirit, held annually from 1976, this year when North Korea signed a nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The IAEA's four ad hoc inspections on Pyongyang recently found what appeared to be two nuclear material storage sites that should have been reported to the agency but were not.

Mutual Inspection Rules Expected

SK1012093892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0928 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea told the North Thursday it would not suspend the joint Korea-U.S. Team Spirit military training exercise next year unless the North shows sincerity toward resolving the nuclear question.

Kong No-myong, spokesman for the Southern delegation to the South-North prime ministers meeting, said in a telephone message he regretted that the North, in its Dec. 4 message, linked the issue of the Team Spirit exercise to the holding of the 9th South-North prime ministers meeting.

"Our side expects that rules on inter-Korean nuclear inspections would be adopted before Dec. 21, the date on which the two sides decided to hold the 9th prime ministers meeting, so as to pave the way to mutual nuclear inspections," Kong said. His message was addressed to An Pyong-su, Kong's North Korean counterpart.

Kong added that if the North continues to stick to an unreasonable position and if, as a result, there would be no significant progress in the nuclear issue, the South will have no way but to conduct the '93 Team Spirit exercise.

Meanwhile, Kim Yong-hwan, the South's senior liaison official, asked his North Korean counterpart Thursday to hold a South-North senior liaison officials contact at

Panmunjom on Dec. 14 to discuss the schedule and other procedural matters of the ninth prime ministers meeting.

DPRK Delegate Hints at Talks Suspension

SK1012060292 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 10 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] North and South Korea held the 12th meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee at the House of Peace in the South side's area of Panmunjom on 10 December. It was learned, however, that North and South Korea failed to reach any agreement and only argued because the North demanded that the plan to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise be revoked first.

At the meeting that day, Kong No-myong, the South side's chairman, said: "If you make the 1993 Team Spirit joint military exercise issue a precondition to dialogue, it is like putting the cart before the horse." He stressed: "If mutual nuclear inspection is carried out before the ninth round of high-level talks, the Team Spirit joint military exercise issue can be resolved."

Choe U-chin, the North side's chairman, demanded that the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise be revoked before 15 December. He said that if this is not realized, a grave obstacle will block the ninth round of the North-South high-level talks slated for 21 December, thus hinting at the suspension of high-level talks. Choe refused the South side's proposal that the two sides hold a delegates' contact to discuss the inspection regulations.

Hyundai-Owned Daily Discontinues Printing for CHOSON ILBO

SK1012121592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1129 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—Bickering between a business group and a daily newspaper has led to the cancellation of the printing of some copies of the daily at a press owned by the group.

The newspaper CHOSON ILBO said in a press release Thursday that the daily MUNHWA ILBO, an affiliate of the Hyundai Group, had notified CHOSON on Dec. 7 that it would cease to print some CHOSON copies beginning Friday evening.

Choson said that in a contract with MUNHWA, 250,000 of its copies have been printed a day at MUNHWA's Kihung printing shop in Yong-in County. The contract signed on last March 9 was supposed to remain in force for two years, Choson said. The press release said that due to the abrupt cancellation of the contract, delivery of CHOSON papers may be delayed in two to three days in some areas of the capital zone.

"To make up for the cancellation, we will operate our own press 24 hours a day and will arrange printing at some other printing shops," Choson said.

Meanwhile, the Hyundai Group refused to furnish funds to the "Chongnyong Film Awards" sponsored by the SPORTS CHOSON, a sister paper of the CHOSON ILBO, with financial contribution from the Hyundai.

A Hyundai official said they saw no reason why they should furnish funds to CHOSON at this time when relations with CHOSON had turned from bad to worse.

Hyundai provides 150 million won to the annual awards. "We have already given 50 million won to CHOSON but we will not furnish the remaining 100 million won," the Hyundai man said.

Government Plans To Curb Overseas Borrowing

SK0912025792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0205 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—The South Korean government plans to curb overseas borrowing as much as possible as the international balance of payments is expected to improve amid expansion of foreign capital inflow, a source at the Finance Ministry said Wednesday. The source, who asked not to be identified, said that the government would not consider relaxing conditions for floating convertible bonds (CBS) on overseas capital markets. Only short-term borrowing would be permitted for foreign-invested companies in Korea.

The move is in line with a government estimation that more foreign capital is expected to flow into the country with the substantial opening of the capital market to foreigners and increases in imports on credit next year. Inflow of foreign capital is sure to be accelerated as foreigners are entitled to invest in Korean investment and trust companies next year, according to the source.

Korea's anticipated current account deficit is from 4 billion to 5 billion U.S. dollars, while 8 billion to 10 billion dollars would enter Korea next year. This year, the government had restricted foreign borrowing to 8 billion dollars but less than 4 billion dollars was reached by the end of November, the source said. The government will limit foreign borrowing to 3 billion dollars next year.

While trying to control foreign borrowing, the government will use its growing foreign currency reserves to help companies invest abroad or invest in facilities.

YONHAP News Agency Establishes Beijing Correspondent

SK1012052292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0048 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—YONHAP News Agency has become the first South Korean media organization with a correspondent based in Beijing.

Ku Pom-hoe, who writes on international affairs, left for Beijing to take up his assignment on Thursday morning.

YONHAP's Hong Kong correspondent, Kim Pyong-su, will continue to cover Chinese affairs and join Ku in Beijing whenever needed.

South Korea and China set up diplomatic ties on Aug. 24.

Finance Minister To Preside Over Monetary Board Meetings

SK0512060392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Dec 92 p 18

[Text] Finance Minister Yi Yong-man sa?d that he will preside over meetings of the central bank's policy-setting Monetary Board from this month in the capacity of its chairman.

The Bank of Korea [BOK] interprets Minister Yi's decision as a move to control the central bank and involve himself personally in its monetary and interest rate policies.

Minister Yi was quoted as having said, "The final decision on monetary and interest rate policies will be decided at the nine-member Monetary Board meeting, which I will attend regularly."

Many analysts speculate the MOF [Ministry of Finance] and BOK have begun a second showdown after the recent squabble over cutting the rediscount rate—the interest rate the central bank charges banks for its short-term loans.

The BOK rejected the MOF's call for trimming the rediscount rate and the central bank's action has embarrassed the MOF and Minister Yi.

In a meeting with Monetary Board members, Yi said he will participate in regular Monetary Board meetings. It is natural for the finance minister to chair the board meeting as he is its chairman. But it has been customary for the BOK governor, the alternative chairman of the Monetary Board, to preside over the bi-monthly meeting.

MOF officials said they believe that by participating in the meetings, the minister seeks to form a consensus with Monetary Board members before deciding on important monetary and interest rate policies in order not to give the impression that the MOF and the BOK are squabbling over key financial issues.

Who should become the chairman of the Monetary Board was a thorny issue three years ago when the BOK was engaged in a dispute with the MOF over gaining its neutrality.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Says Royal Immunity Under Study

BK0912113192 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Dec 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Mon.—As more calls poured in urging the government to amend constitutional provisions relating to the position of rulers, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed revealed that the government was studying the extent to which rulers are immune to legal action.

The prime minister said although "above the law" has many interpretations, it actually applies to certain matters only. They do not include beating or killing people.

Dr. Mahathir said this when asked to comment further on reports that the police had received a report on the alleged assault of Maktab [College] Sultan Abu Bakar [MSAB] hockey coach Douglas Gomez last week.

The strongest call for constitutional review came from former law minister and attorney general Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah who said the law should not provide exemption to anybody, not even the rulers.

"What use is the law if there is a lacuna in it?" he asked. Hamzah, who served as law minister and attorney general from 1978 to 1980, said that an amendment will act as a deterrent.

Dr. Mahathir said the rulers were above the law in such cases as debts, but that immunity did not include beating or killing people.

He was responding to reporters' questions after opening the 14th meeting of the Federation of International Non-governmental Organisations on Dadah [Drugs] here.

"The government would have to study the form of action that could be taken in this matter," he said, adding that it was up to the police to investigate the matter.

In any case, he said the government feared that recent incidents involving members of royalty may affect the thinking of the people towards them.

If such a situation prevails, it will also affect the image of the Malay rulers in the eyes of the people.

He cited as an example the situation in the United Kingdom where the people had held the royalty in high esteem until several recent incidents which resulted in many quarters changing their views about the British monarchy.

"I fear that if negative incidents involving the royalty continue to happen here it would have an effect on people's views on the institution of rulers," he said.

Gomez had sought treatment at a clinic upon leaving Istana [Palace] Bukit Serene in Johor Baru. He alleged in the police report that he was assaulted by the sultan of Johor.

The incident came in the wake of Gomez's criticism of the Johor Hockey Association's principal office-bearers after the forced pullout of the MSAB team from the MHF-Milo Schools Champion tournament earlier.

When asked if the government or UMNO [United Malays National Organization] would seek an audience with the rulers to discuss the matter, he said: "I don't know... We have not thought about it yet."

Dr. Mahathir said during the British colonial rule in Malaya there was a system where a crown prince or other member of royalty who did not show good conduct were not allowed to ascend to the throne when the ruler died.

Therefore, princes and other members of the royalty are required to conduct themselves properly if they want to succeed to the throne.

When asked whether such a system is applicable now, Dr. Mahathir said there had been no opposition to the system previously.

"It is important to ascertain whether a member of a royal family who is in a position to ascend to the throne has the right character. If he likes to beat people and so on, we would have to consider seriously if he is fit to become a ruler," Dr. Mahathir added.

When asked by a reporter to comment on a statement by the yang di-pertuan agong [paramount ruler] Sultan Azlan Shah in 1981 that rulers should maintain their credibility if they do not want to be removed to the museums, Dr. Mahathir said:

"The rulers must give serious consideration to what the former lord president had said."

Hamzah, who is also the president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, said Malaysia followed the British legal system and some laws in the Constitution need to be amended to suit local requirements.

"It is a British legacy based on the maxim that 'The King can do no wrong,' but there is a growing belief that this need not be true."

He said during his tenure as attorney general there were two cases of members of the royalty charged and found guilty of assault—one in Perak and the other in Pahang

"And I am glad because those who were charged turned over a new leaf and realised that they were not above the law."

In Singapore, UMNO Vice President Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim said the UMNO Supreme Council will decide whether to bring up the issue relating to the Johor palace to the Rulers Council at its next meeting. Anwar said the suggestions that the issue be discussed at the Rulers

Council will be raised at the next scheduled meeting of the UMNO Supreme Council. He said this along with the issue on palace interference in sports would be discussed at the meeting.

Even though the Supreme Council had not made a stand on the issue, he said almost all its members had expressed their feelings on the matter.

"What has been said by them would be more or less what the Supreme Council would decide when it meets," he told Malaysian reporters at the office of the Malaysian High Commissioner here.

"The Supreme Council would certainly not take a stand that is less firm than that taken by the cabinet on the issue."

In the Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] today, several MPs have also called on the government to take firm measures to protect the people against the wrath of the Johor royalty to ensure that the weak will not be intimidated by the strong.

Shahidan Kassim (BN [National Front]-Arau) said the people were now living in a modern era where ancient practices of assault and murders are considered major crimes and those responsible should be punished. He said the assault on Gomez cannot be tolerated and the government should take steps to protect the people.

Ibrahim Ali (BN-Pasir Mas) said there was no law which allows the killing or assault of people by anybody.

Karpal Singh (DAP [Democratic Action Party]-Jelutong) said Attorney General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman should immediately prosecute Tunku Majid Idris of Johor for assaulting a Perak hockey player recently. Karpal said the government must act immediately without fear or favour.

Party Official Supports Amendment

BK0912154392 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Excerpt] An amendment to the Constitution regarding royal immunity is a good way to ensure that the alleged assault on Douglas Gomez will not recur. UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Vice President Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said the move to amend the Constitution in the wake of the incident was based on good intentions because it was designed to prevent ugly incidents. He said that if passed, the amendment would not place a burden on the royalty. He said that if Gomez's report on the royal actions proved to be true, this would have very negative effects on the ties between the royalty and the people.

According to Datuk Abdullah, UMNO as a political party that supports the constitutional monarchy system wants to see good ties between the royalty and the people and the maintenance of mutual respect. [passage omitted]

Parliament Approves Amendment

BK1012141092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] approved unanimously the motion that was tabled by the Deputy Prime Minister Encik [Mr.] Ghafar Baba calling for a resolution to be taken to ensure the nonrecurrence of the Douglas Gomez incident in Johor. The motion states that the Dewan [House] resolved that the incident was an abuse of power which contradicted the Malaysian Constitution. Ninety-six members voted for the motion. There was no opposition or abstention. The speaker, Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail, described the unanimous approval as historic as it was the first time such a thing happened in the Dewan.

Earlier, several members of Parliament stated that rulers should not be above the law and urged the government to review the Federal Constitution relating to their immunity. They said that the move was necessary to preserve and protect the country's constitutional monarchy from what had been experienced by a number of world rulers.

Datuk Dr. Afifuddin Haji Omar, when speaking during the debate on the motion relating to the Douglas Gomez issue, said the provision on the rulers' immunity in Federal Constitution should be revoked. Haji Hadi Awang said those appointed as rulers should have manners that could act as example to the people. He said the rulers should not only advise the people but also must be prepared to be advised. In supporting the motion, Haji said the concept of exchanging advice between the rulers and the people would ensure good relationship between them and the people.

Haji Ibrahim Ali urged the government to set up a national pardon council to handle certain cases. He questioned the existence of the Pasukan Timbalan Setia Johor [Johor Military Force], saying that such a force should not exist as Johor was part of Malaysia.

Minister Offers Troops to UN for Bosnia, Somalia

BK1012092092 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Malaysia has offered two battalions of soldiers for UN peacekeeping duties in Bosnia-Hercegovia and Somalia. Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said Malaysia recently informed the UN headquarters of its intention to serve in the peacekeeping forces in the two countries hit by civil war. He said the decision was made by the Cabinet. Datuk Sri Najib said the ministry was told that a quota for the UN protection force, UNPROFOR, in Bosnia had been filled up.

Cambodia

Efforts To Treat Sihanouk Said French 'Scheme'

BK0912052992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Dec 92

["Report on French Doctors Flocking to Beijing to Give Medical Treatments to Prince Norodom Sihanouk"]

[Text] Reliable, informed sources at Trocadero in Paris said a group of French doctors have been flocking to the Chinese city of Beijing in order to provide medical treatment for Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

1. The general public in the world is well aware that Prince Norodom Sihanouk—head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia—who has been unwell, has been staying in Beijing and receiving medical care provided by outstanding Chinese specialists there. It was also reported that with the meticulous medical treatments from the prominent Chinese specialists, the prince has progressively recovered from his illness. And according to the basic guideline of the Chinese doctors, the prince should convalesce and cease thinking about work that could affect his health, especially the affected areas, including his optic nerves that connect to his back. [sentence as heard] Moreover, his ailment needs careful and gradual treatments. No urgent surgical operations that could cause danger are required.

The general public is also aware that the Chinese Government and people consider the prince as one of their important great friends, especially a famous leader in Cambodia and the world. So the Chinese doctors are responsible for providing the treatment to the prince as the SNC chairman who has a very important role.

2. The reliable informed sources at Trocadero in Paris said that lately France has busily and expeditiously engaged in various activities and demanded that French doctors be sent to Beijing to treat the prince or that the latter be invited to have medical care in France. However, the prince has not accepted France's proposal since he has already received proper treatment in the Chinese capital city. Yet France has continued demanding that a French medical team be allowed to give the prince a medical checkup in Beijing; and the French Government has ordered its ambassador to China named Claude Martin to request an audience with the prince at a hospital in Beijing in an attempt to invite the prince to seek treatment in France or ask for his permission to allow French doctors to see him in Beijing. Nevertheless, the prince has once again refused to accept the proposal.

3. The general public, Cambodian residents, and French citizens in Paris; the people, government officials, and diplomats in Beijing, as well as the people in Phnom Penh are well aware of the aforementioned activities of the French doctors. Therefore, comments have been made by different milieus one after the other.

Some milieus say that such actitivies by the French doctors and Government are inappropriate political and diplomatic approaches since China is a great country with quality, virtue, and capability of being seriously responsible for its national affairs and for its participation in the world affairs as well. France's action is similar to the antiquated colonialist method it used before World War II. Other milieus have wondered why the French doctors and government were so eager to go to Beijing? And the answer is that because France and its associates might have a big and secret scheme regarding Cambodia and Prince Norodom Sihanouk himself.

Other people are of the opinion that it is certain that France as well as its alliances inside and outside UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has a big plan to destroy the Paris 23 October 1991 accord in the past year and that now they continue to implement a scheme to send a growing number of Vietnamese to Cambodia, to preserve the Vietnamese puppet regime in the country, and to persuasively include other parties in the Vietnamese puppet regime within the framework of one party, contradicting the Paris agreement, according to which the SNC is made up of four parties. As such, France and its associates do not hesitate to breach the protocol existing between countries. Nor do they hesitate to seize power from the ill prince to abuse at will. They think of nothing except their own interests.

And others point out that assessing the political and diplomatic situation: the concrete execution of the accord; the existence of Vietnamese everywhere in Cambodia; UNTAC's refusal to run the five ministries; UNTAC-made laws allowing the Vietnamese to vote in Cambodia and protecting the Vietnamese; and the unremitting crackdown on the people, politicians, and political parties by the overt and covert police of the Vietnamese and their puppets linked to the scheme to organize a so-called new government of the Vietnamese's State of Cambodia, and to the French doctors and Government's scheme on the ailing prince, the general public has clearly seen and realized that the scheme concocted by France and its associates is a thoroughly and constantly framed strategy.

Although clumsy and malevolent, the activities have been conducted shamelessly and immorally. All in all, diverse elements are of the common opinion that the French medical team and Government's activities on the ailing prince have more clearly demonstrated to Cambodia, the Cambodian people, and the world opinion that France and its associates have a shameful strategic scheme that has been stinkingly denounced. Before France wore the mask of a giant, but now it wears the mask of a devilish creature that is smelly, execrated, despised, and shunned. Joint efforts will definitely expunge this creature in the end.

Tie Banh Grants Interview to Japanese TV

BK0912090992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Recently at the Foreign Military Relations Department, His Excellency [H.E.] General Tie Banh, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and defense minister, granted an interview on the current military and security situation to Japan's NHK television and KYODO correspondents.

Answering a question concerning security, H.E. Gen. Tie Banh stressed that in the process of implementing the peace accord, particularly in the second phase of the cease-fire, the Armed Forces of the State of Cambodia [SOC] have gathered in positions under strict supervision by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. On the other hand, the Khmer Rouge faction has disobeyed and violated the agreement by intruding into various zones under the SOC's control.

His excellency noted that the zone from which the Khmer Rouge faction kidnapped the UNTAC members was under the SOC's control.

Concerning security around Tonle Sap lake, H.E. Tie Banh stressed that simultaneously with troop mobilization in the second phase, 50 percent of the SOC's many boats formerly providing security for the people along the lake were handed over to UNTAC. Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge faction carried out activities along Tonle Sap lake by oppressing the people and collecting taxes on their fish catch.

As for [words indistinct], H.E. Tie Banh said that while the SOC was strictly implementing the peace agreement, the Khmer Rouge faction launched vigorous attacks on the stretch of Route 12 from Kompong Thom to Preah Vihear Province.

News Briefing on SNC Meeting, UN Sanctions

BK1012093392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Uch Kim-an, deputy minister of the cabinet of the Council of Ministers and spokesman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, and General Pan Thai, adviser to the SOC prime minister, held a weekly news conference at the Sakal I hotel at 0900 on 9 December with the participation of several local and foreign journalists.

Mr. Uch Kim-an said that the meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] on 8 December made some progress, but it was boycotted by two factions. Concerning the UN Security Council's Resolution 792, Mr. Uch Kim-an stressed that the SOC faction welcomed the resolution and considered it a step forward. It was, however, a little late in coming because the Khmer Rouge have been systematically violating the peace plan since its signing. The important thing is not the measures or sanctions taken by the UN Security Council, but how UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] is going to implement the resolution, he said.

Mr. Uch Kim-an stressed that the scope of effectiveness of the implementation of these sanctions depends on two factors: First, it is to see whether UNTAC is brave and resolute enough to carry out the mandate entrusted by the Paris agreement; and second, it depends on the neighboring countries, especially Thailand. UNTAC has the duty to deploy both its civilian and military forces throughout Cambodia. We see, however, that UNTAC has deployed them only in the zones of the SOC faction and in this deployment UNTAC has not even cared to secure permission from the SOC. Nevertheless, the SOC faction is not going to demand that UNTAC ask it for authorization, for it recognizes that it is UNTAC's duty. We want, however, to see UNTAC behave in the same way in the zones of the Khmer Rouge faction. Therefore, UNTAC needs not ask the Khmer Rouge for permission whenever it enters their zones.

The SOC Government's spokesman raised this question: Do we consider the Khmer Rouge zones as being a separate state? If they are not, UNTAC should not help create such a separate state.

Another UNTAC duty is to set up checkpoints along borders. So far, however, UNTAC has deployed these checkpoints only along the borders with Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand that are not Khmer Rouge zones. The new resolution orders control over the Khmer Rouge zones. Will this be feasible if the Khmer Rouge refuse to abide by it?

Concerning the creation of military liaison offices with UNTAC, we see that UNTAC has set most of them up with the SOC side whereas there is only one with the Khmer Rouge, the one in Pailin. And even there, UNTAC's movement is very much restricted.

At the same time, in his capacity as the SOC Government's spokesman, Mr. Uch Kim-an condemned the Khmer Rouge for kidnapping six peacekeepers in Kompong Thom Province and regarded this incident as a Khmer Rouge show of arrogance against the UN pacekeepers in Cambodia. Mr. Uch Kim-an expressed satisfaction with the success of UNTAC's consultations, which resulted in the safe release of the six UNTAC soldiers. He, however, asked the journalists this question: Can this incident be considered a chance happening?

Mr. Uch Kim-an explained that the kidnapping took place right after the UN Security Council had passed Resolution 792 to impose sanctions on the Khmer Rouge. Some said that this kidnapping of the UNTAC soldiers was an unrelated case and was not a high-level policy of the Khmer Rouge faction. We, however, do not think so.

Mr. Uch Kim-an drew the attention of local and foreign journalists to the following fact: If you closely look at the

statement of the representative of the Khmer Rouge faction, you will see that there is already a big discrepancy. This is not an unrelated incident. If you think so, try going once more to a place and see if the Khmer Rouge are not going to kidnap you. Therefore, this is a high-level policy, not an unrelated case.

Concerning the question of a neutral political environment, Mr. Uch Kim-an stressed that as the host, the SOC faction has done everything possible to create a good atmosphere for UNTAC, the different political parties, the international organizations, the humanitarian organizations, and the United Nations to carry out their jobs to the best of their ability. As for the recent outbreak of violent acts, it takes root from the Khmer Rouge violation of the agreement. On the other hand, it is also caused by some political parties's internal squabbles over power sharing. Moreover, this gloomy atmosphere is also the result of widespread armed robberies. The SOC faction itself is not safe from these acts.

Mr. Uch Kim-an then answered several questions raised by the journalists. On the issue that the Khmer Rouge accused UNTAC of entering their zones to spy for the Phnom Penh government, Mr. Uch Kim-an said: Can we believe that? All these accusations cannot be believed. Neither can the accusations that the SOC has committed those acts of violence. One must first have proof before accusing us or anybody else.

A journalist asked to make an estimate of the number of people now living under the Khmer Rouge control, for this has a great bearing on the elections. Mr. Uch Kim-an stated that we can estimate the area taken by the Khmer Rouge after the agreement, but we cannot estimate the number of the people as they are moving about everyday under the pressure and harsh treatment of the Khmer Rouge. Some of them have even taken refuge in Phnom Penh. Therefore, all the estimates are just speculations. There are no specific figures to back them up.

Answering the question about the absence of His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Hun Sen at yesterday's SNC meeting, Mr. Uch Kim-an said that the SNC meeting was very important, but because H.E. Chairman Hun Sen was engaged in a mission to the provinces—and this plan was made long before—he could not attend the meeting. However, other SNC members from the SOC faction present at the meeting were doing their job very well.

In the same news conference, Gen. Pan Thai showed the journalists the military situation in Cambodia on a map. He gave the dates of the Khmer Rouge attacks against the areas controlled by the SOC since 26 November, attacks which caused considerable losses of and damage to the people's lives and property. These incidents took place in Siem Reap, Pursat, Kompong Thom, and Kompong Chhnang provinces and other regions. The general stressed that before the signing of the agreement, the Khmer Rouge were in control of 5 to 10 percent of the territory. To the present, the Khmer Rouge have violated the agreement and expanded their control zones. According to an estimate, they are controlling about 30 percent of the territory.

SNC Views Vietnamese Forces Issue; KR Absent

BK1012091892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0757 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Dec 10 (AFP)—Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) discussed Thursday whether Vietnamese forces still remain in Cambodia, but the faction that has complained loudest about the issue, the Khmer Rouge [KR], did not show up.

The SNC also agreed to recommend to its chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is ill in Beijing, that ethnic Khmers born in southern Vietnam can vote in next year's United Nations-run elections if they now reside in Cambodia. The decision would ultimately have to be made by the U.N. secretary general in New York.

Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan had sent a letter to U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi telling him he was too busy to attend the SNC meeting.

In his absence, Akashi suggested setting up a technical advisory committee to collect documents and other information on the issue and report back to the SNC, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

The Khmer Rouge have long maintained that Vietnamese soldiers are still occupying Cambodia, despite Hanoi's insistence that they withdrew in 1989 after invading the country a decade before to oust the Khmer Rouge.

Vietnam's Ambassador to Cambodia Tran Huy Chuong reiterated that position to the SNC, saying not only have all troops withdrawn but so have their weapons and ammunition.

The Cambodian peace process has come to a virtual standstill over the Khmer Rouge's demands that Vietnamese withdraw from Cambodia and that the SNC should have more governing power.

Akashi sent a letter to Khieu Samphan saying it was regrettable that the faction did not attend.

"The strengthening of the SNC could be achieved only by fully participating in its proceedings," the letter said.

At the meeting, Akashi presented the finding of UNTAC's strategic investigation teams, which checked out nine supposed sightings of Vietnamese forces since July.

Four were found to be groundless, two had insufficient evidence to investigate and on three the investigation was inconclusive or still in progress. Such cases investigated included alleged sightings of Vietnamese troops who turned out to be civilians engaged in logging or fishing.

"We simply cannot accept the allegation that UNTAC is not doing enough to investigate the presence of foreign forces," Falt quoted Akashi as telling the SNC.

The Phnom Penh government, represented at the SNC by Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, said it would respond within three days whether to accept the new committee to examine the foreign forces issue. Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) representatives Son Sann and Ieng Muli endorsed the idea.

Also at the meeting, French Ambassador Philippe Coste said his government had relaxed laws for Cambodian refugees living in France to allow them to come to Cambodia to register for the election. Refugees in France without full citizenship lose their privileges if they return to their home countries. The relaxation in the law gives Cambodian refugees three months to visit Cambodia and return to France.

Newspaper Alleges 'Two-Faced' Thai Policy

BK1012124992 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 23-29 Nov 92 p 3

[From the "Comment" column]

[Text] Thailand's increasingly dubious commitment to the Cambodian peace process has recently come under close scrutiny now that Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri has declared the UN will not be allowed to deploy any of its peacekeepers on the Thai side of the Cambodian border if the military situation deteriorates.

There are concerns the military situation could worsen following the measures that are anticipated to be taken by the UN Security Council as a rebuke to the Khmer Rouge's continuing intractability.

"Thailand, as an independent sovereign country, will not permit the UN peacekeepers to use its territory as a base if they determine that working in Cambodia is too dangerous," Prasong told the Thai daily, THE NATION.

Prasong's comments came amid concerns and speculation as to how the Khmer Rouge would react to the punitive measures that are expected to be imposed against them.

Prasong's remarks also came hot on the heels of his qualification of Thailand's previous endorsement of any sanctions the UN may impose against the Khmer Rouge.

Prasong stated that Thailand could only comply with sanctions in so far as they do not contravene Thai laws.

As critics have pointed out, Prasong seems to have forgotten that Thailand ratified the UN charter and is therefore bound by its resolutions.

One also has to question whether Thailand has not forgotten that it was also a signatory to the Cambodian peace agreement.

Thailand has made much of the fact that the contracts to log and gem-mining in Khmer Rouge zones are private contracts and therefore the state is not in a position to do anything about them.

Sanctions, whenever they are introduced, have stepped on the toes of the private sector. There's nothing new or unique about that.

The problem in Thailand, many analysts suggest, is that the private sector threatened by sanctions is the private sector of a very powerful public sector, the army.

And following the May pro-democracy massacre and the subsequent and surprisingly courageous demotions of the senior army officers involved, compounded with the removal of a number of the officers from lucrative positions on the boards of state companies, the Thai government is somewhat reluctant to once again confront the army and its vested interests.

After all, the army in Thailand has built up quite a reputation for getting rid of troublesome governments.

So whereas their evasive and increasingly defiant attitude towards sanctions is relatively understandable, the remarks about not allowing UN personnel to be stationed on the Thai side of the border are so badly timed that they seem to just add insult to injury.

After all Thailand is one of the major financial beneficiaries of UNTAC's [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] presence in Cambodia. The Thais went to great lengths to get the UN to use Thailand as a base camp.

There were no qualms or reservations about allowing lucrative UN logistics supplies to be routed through Thailand. Sovereignty was of little concern when there were millions of dollars at stake.

And now, with the possibility of the UN upsetting multi-million dollar relationships with the Khmer Rouge, sovereignty suddenly becomes an issue.

What's more, this recent concern for sovereignty seems to be totally one-sided.

It is completely discarded when it comes to Cambodia's territory and borders.

The Thai military seems to cross over at will without the slightest concern for sovereignty or the terms of the Paris Agreement concerning foreign forces.

And it does appear somewhat strange that those self-appointed, outspoken guardians of Cambodian sovereignty, the Khmer Rouge, who spend their time executing poor Vietnamese fishermen, tend to be totally mute on the subject of the rape of northern Cambodia's natural resources and to them who are perpetrating it.

"With no regard for the sovereignty of Cambodia, with no respect for the fragility of the men and the structures born from tragedy, with complete scorn for the interests

of the Cambodians, Thailand has begun a real colonisation of Cambodia," Raoul Jennar wrote.

He went on to accuse Thailand of profiting from all the weaknesses of Cambodia and the Cambodians while demonstrating towards the Khmer Rouge a "very disturbing" indulgence.

Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan is very vocal when it comes to threatening Vietnamese settlers and accusing them of colonisation, yet he has never uttered a word about the estimated 100,000 Thai workers who are earning their wages or their Thai military bosses who are getting rich—all from what the Khmer Rouge constantly declare should be ethnically-cleansed Cambodian soil.

Khieu Samphan and his friend, the notorious and hated Pol Pot, can also feel confident that, whenever the humour takes them, they can retire to Thai territory . There's a history there of hospitality, one encouraged by the United States.

"Pol Pot had malaria. He was dying—and the Royal Army of Thailand sent a helicopter, a beautiful American helicopter, 'Made in U.S.A.,' ha-ha-ha! to take him from his headquarters to the best hospital," Prince Norodom Sihanouk wryly noted in an interview two years ago.

"Since 1979, the Khmer Rouge have benefitted from active protection from the Thai army," Jennar wrote in his fourth edition of Cambodian Chronicles.

And throughout the war, whenever militarily pressed, the Khmer Rouge were able to seek sanctuary on Thai soil.

But UNTAC, not an army but the representatives of the world community's desire for peace in Cambodia, cannot, if need be, seek protection on that same soil.

If the Thais had applied the same conditions to the Khmer Rouge, the Vietnamese army would have most likely finished them off four good years ago.

The Thais have said all along they backed the peace process—after all they were playing unwilling host to 300,000 refugees that they wished to be rid of.

Thanks to the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) along with UNTAC, that wish is coming true.

Now, one has to wonder whether the Thais have any other interest in the peace process.

Of course there was former prime minister Chatichai's policy, summed up in the great catch slogan of "turning battlefields into marketplaces."

But it seems that the Thais have now realised that they can reap the benefits of the marketplace without upsetting their Khmer Rouge allies' battlefield plans.

And, meanwhile, despite the fact that the State of Cambodia realises that there is a "two-faced" Thai policy, the Thais can capitalise on what Jennar describes as the "weaknesses of Cambodia and Cambodians" and extend their marketshare to Phnom Penh and the non-Khmer Rouge areas.

So without changing the battlefield into the marketplace, the Thais just aim to get the best of both worlds.

And it's just tough luck for the poor Cambodian consumer who happens to get shot on the way to the market.

If the Thais are not prepared to fully cooperate with the UN, UNTAC should certainly seek a new market for the "significant" amount of supplies it has been purchasing in a country that now seems to have no qualms about the possibility of letting their customers get stabbed in the back.

Thailand is currently proving beyond doubt what Jennar wrote months ago.

"It is unquestionably the weak link in the chain of signatory countries."

A top UN official stated last week: "They're playing with fire."

One can only hope that it is the Thais themselves and not the Cambodians that get burnt.

10 Dec International Human Rights Day Viewed

BK1012104692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 9 Dec 92

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "10 December Is the Most Meaningful Day for Our People"—date not given]

[Text] The UN General Assembly solemnly adopted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights on 10 December 1948. The 30-clause declaration has become universal law allowing a number of principles and measures to materialize as the high tenet that aims at ensuring the fundamental rights of mankind without discriminating against color, religion, political leaning, [word indistinct], and age. Everyone has the right to live as a human being with honor and dignity, different from slaves or animals.

Commemorating this significant day, our people wish to again express their gratitude to the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], which have salvaged all of us from the genocidal Pol Pot regime and allowed us to live happily and enjoy every fundamental human right that was trod upon and systematically destroyed by the Polpotist Khmer Rouge during their reign of terror of three years, eight months, and 20 days. In the Polpotist Khmer Rouge's fenceless prisons, the people were living under threats, with worry, and in fear and dismay at the mass killing of innocent people. They were forced to live in a

world of ignorance and work in miserable conditions without food. And, they were also exposed to disease and isolated from their family, society, and also the outside world. Now, the people have been revived, enjoyed all kinds of genuine freedoms, and gained protection from the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the SOC.

Along with the rebirth of the motherland and even though the country has been placed between peace and war over the past 14 years, the people from all walks of life have happily enjoyed the rights and freedom they lost in the past darkest era. These include the right to live, work, earn a living, receive education and health care; own land, houses, and all types of production means; freedom of expression; press freedom; freedom of setting up associations; freedom of religion; freedom of observing traditions, customs, and culture; and freedom of performing all kinds of political activities. These rights and freedom are equally protected by law for every citizen.

In the stage of implementing the Paris accord and restoring national reunification in a political, multiparty atmosphere, the SOC Government has spearheaded the release of thousands of political prisoners and offenders and created all kinds of favorable conditions for hundreds of thousands of refugees to return to reunite with their family members in the motherland. Nevertheless, it is regrettable that the Polpotist Khmer Rouge, who are the most intransigent party denying the implementation of the accord, have breached the cease-fire with the intent of dragging on the destructive war by militarily encroaching upon a number of our areas and massacring the people and plundering their property. They have also abusively barred villagers from participating in the voter registration process, which will enable the people to exercise their rights as a citizen in future elections.

Openly sabotaging the UN peace plan, the Khmer Rouge, in collusion with some political parties and under the protection of other parties, have created and distorted the issue of human rights and anarchic rights in Cambodia. They have also stirred up hatred against their own nation and Vietnam; committed violent activities and assassinations; and generated turmoil and terrorism that have never existed before, affecting social order and security. This is aimed at putting the whole blame on the SOC side, which is the host party.

Marking the 10 December human rights day, which is a most valuable day for our people, we wish to thank and highly appreciate UNTAC and some human rights activists for striving to protect human rights in Cambodia in a situation where the country is implementing a multiparty system while struggling for genuine peace.

Our people vehemently denounce any political parties and individuals who are playing unchecked human rights and democratic freedom games with the ill intention of creating fear, anxiety, and confusion to seriously affect the neutral climate which constitutes an indispensable condition for the forthcoming legislative elections.

Believing that the fundamental right of mankind is the right to live, we hope that human rights activists will cooperate with the CPP and the SOC Government, which are the advocates and protectors of the Cambodian people's rights, to prevent the possible recurrence, under all appearances, of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Historically, genocide has always wreaked havoc upon mankind.

Indonesia

Jakarta, Beijing Agree To Settle Dumping Issue

BK0812123192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Indonesia and China have agreed to settle the dumping issue and increase trade and investment in machinery and the processing of raw material amid charges on China's dumping practices. Meanwhile, the Indonesian Government has urged businessmen to report on imported Chinese goods sold at dumped prices. Trade Minister Arifin Siregar said that following the (?second) meeting of the joint Indonesian-Chinese Commission in Jakarta today the government would find it more difficult to overcome dumping if businessmen were reluctant to report on it.

Meanwile, Li Lanqing, Chinese minister for foreign economic relations, said during the meeting that the Chinese Government had since January 1991 reduced subsidies to Chinese state enterprises and required them to gain production profits. He also asked Indonesia to inform China about any Chinese companies selling their products at dumped prices.

Suharto Meets PRC Minister

BK1012093292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The PRC Government has assured Indonesia that it will take action against its businessmen involved in economic dumping practices. The assurance was given by Li Lanqing, PRC minister of foreign economic relations and trade, who also requested the Indonesian side to inform the PRC Government of such practices. The PRC Government will then launch an investigation into the matter.

Speaking to reporters after he met with President Suharto at the Bina Graha presidential office in Jakarta this morning, the PRC minister said dumping practices will undermine the PRC image overseas. PRC products are indeed cheaper than those of other countries because that country has lower production costs and has used efficient management and technology systems. Sino-Indonesian trade has grown rapidly since the two countries normalized diplomatic relations. In 1991, Indonesia's exports to the PRC stood at $1.1 billion while its imports stood at $834.9 million—a surplus of about $360 million in Indonesia's favor.

According to Trade Minister Arifin Siregar, who accompanied the PRC minister in his meeting with President Suharto, trade relations between the two countries have great potential for further growth.

East Timor Rebel Leader To Face Criminal Trial

BK1012092292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0500 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Xanana Gusmao, leader of the East Timor Security Disturbance Movement, is to face criminal trial at the Dili state court. Speaking to reporters in Dili, Attorney General Singgih said the judiciary process for Xanana, captured by security forces on 20 November, will be held in Dili, where he committed the crimes. The attorney general was on a working visit to Dili where he also visited the house where Xanana was captured. The house has an underground tunnel which can be used as an emergency exit.

Laos

Committee Issues Press Release on Kaysone Funeral

BK1012091192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Press release issued by National-Level Funeral Committee on state memorial service, mourning, and funeral for late President Kaysone Phomvihan 22-28 November—date not given]

[Text] The National-Level Funeral Committee would like to inform the multiethnic compatriots throughout the country that the funeral for late President Kaysone Phomvihan has been completely organized in an orderly manner in all respects amid a mournful atmosphere of profound grief and sorrow of our entire party, army, and people. Throughout the seven days, from 22 to 28 November, our entire people as well as the embassies, consuls, and representation offices of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] abroad, organized ceremonies to mourn the demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan and to express to the late president profound respects, affection, and gratitude. The Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], the government, and the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee organized a solemn memorial service at the main hall of the SPA to pay homage to the remains and to mourn the demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan. The state funeral ceremony was also held in a grand, honorable manner in accordance with traditional practices at the main grounds in front of the National Assembly. Some 228 groups of people from various branches of service, departments or units, institutes, business production units, and various organizations, ranging from the central down to the local levels throughout the country, laid wreaths and paid homage to the remains of President Kaysone Phomvihan to express grievous mourning and gratitude to the late president. Foreign diplomats and representatives of international organizations to Laos, as well as foreign investors and families of prominent foreign persons in Laos, also attended the mourning ceremony and paid respects to the remains of President Kaysone Phomvihan.

A total of 19 delegations from 15 countries attended the national funeral ceremony of President Kaysone Phomvihan. They included a high-level party and state delegation of the SRV led by Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi; a delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, representing his majesty the king of Thailand; a high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Comrade Heng Samrin, honorable chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and president of the Council of State; Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon; a high-level delegation of the PRC led by Comrade Zou Jiahua, Political Bureau member of the CPC Central Committee and vice premier; a high-level party and state delegation of the DPRK led by Comrade Yi Chong-ok, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and vice president of the DPRK; a government delegation from Indonesia led by Sudomo, minister for political and security liaison, representing President Suharto; a government delegation of Myanmar [Burma] led by U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; a government delegation of Malaysia led by Datuk Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar, local domestic minister and acting minister of foreign affairs [name and title as heard]; a government delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand led by Prasong Sunsiri, minister of foreign affairs; a government delegation of Australia led by Ms. Wendy Fatin, minister and adviser to the prime minister and minister for arts and territories, representing the governor-general; a government delegation of Japan led by Taro Nakayama, former minister of foreign affairs and member of the House of Councillors, representing Emperor Akihito; a government delegation of France led by (Pierre Doubase), former minister and adviser to President Francois Mitterrand; a delegation of the Russian Federation led by Roudov, ambassador of the Russian Federation to Laos, special envoy of the Russian president; a government delegation of India led by Jambholkar, ambassador to Laos as special envoy of the Indian president; a government delegation of Sweden led by (Hans Aldrin), counselor of the Swedish Embassy to Laos; a government delegation of Mongolia led by Toytigiyn Tomorhuleg, ambassador of Mongolia to Laos; a delegation of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the House of Representatives of Thailand led by Siphanom Wichitworasan, deputy chairman of the commission; and a delegation of the Thai-Lao Friendship Association led by General Panya Singsaksda, chairman of the association.

Religious ceremonies and other traditional activities were organized at the SPA main hall day and night throughout the seven days. Leaders and prominent persons of various countries and representative of the UN

general secretary also attended mourning ceremonies, which were held at embassies, consuls, and representation offices of the LPDR to foreign countries and the United Nations. Fraternal overseas Lao residents abroad also sent messages of condolences and organized mourning ceremonies for the late President Kaysone Phomvihan. Party leaders, heads of state, and government leaders of various countries in the world, international organizations, social organizations, foundations, and foreign friends sent messages to our Lao party and state leaders, the bereaved family of President Kaysone Phomvihan, and our Lao people, expressing mourning for the demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan and sharing grief and sorrow over the great loss on this occasion. They also highly appraised the roles and meritorious deeds of President Kaysone Phomvihan.

The National-Level Funeral Committee and the bereaved family of President Kaysone Phomvihan have highly appreciated and would like to express sincere thanks and profound gratitude to the parties and governments of the fraternal and friendly countries, near and far, throughout the world; members of diplomatic corps, consuls, international organizations, foundations, social organizations, and foreign friends for extending grievous mourning and sympathy for the great loss on the demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan. We would like to express thanks to Lao compatriots of all tribes, both at home and abroad, various organizations, branches of service, departments, business units, national defense and public security forces, cadres, state employees, workers, youths, women, students and schoolchildren, elderly people, personages, Vientiane residents, and foreign residents for contributing energies, materials, and spirit to the successful and orderly organizing of the funeral. The National-Level Funeral Committee also would like to express special thanks to the Lao Unified Buddhist Organization, as well as all Buddhist monks and novices throughout the country, for chanting prayers to dedicate acquired merits to deceased President Kaysone Phomvihan and for giving to the funeral committee an urn for preserving ashes of President Kaysone Phomvihan, the urn which is made of silver weighing two kg and inlaid with gold weighing nine baht [approximately 141.3 grams]. The urn serves as a commemoration and an expression of profound gratitude to deceased President Kaysone Phomvihan, who scored meritorous deeds in service of the Buddhist organization as well as of Buddhist believers throughout the country.

SPA Member Visits Ethnic People in Luang Prabang

BK0712040592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Recently, Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, and Chansi Phosikham, governor of Luang Prabang Province, visited the Hmong and Lao Theung ethnic people in Viangsai canton in Phonsai District in Luang Prabang Province; he chatted with them and gave them aid items. This activity helps solve problems concerning the living conditions of the people and shows the concern of the party and government for the multiethnic Lao people throughout the country.

On the occasion, Chaleun Yiapaoheu chatted with Hmong people in Ban (Khong Kian) village. He informed them of the new changes in the international situation and the current implementation of the comprehensive renovation policy by the party and government. He also urged various ethnic people to be more united and attentively contribute to the causes of national defense and construction. Furthermore, he praised the ethnic people in Viangsai canton for shifting from slash-and-burn cultivation to alternative cultivation, thus helping reduce the destruction of the forests and the environment.

On the election of members of the third National Assembly, Chaleun Yiapaoheu pointed to the significance of the forthcoming election, in which everyone will be able to fully excercise his rights. He asked all eligible voters to excercise their rights appropriately in accordance with all the rules and regulations in order to make the coming election a fine success.

Philippines

Abadia Begins 'Extensive' Military Reorganization

HK1012110792 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 10 Dec 92

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] An extensive reorganization is to take place in the military this month, due to the retirement of two officials who occupy sensitive positions in the Armed Forces.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia appointed Major General Romeo Zulueta as commander of the Southern Command today. Zulueta is replacing Lieutenant General Gumercindo Yap.

Brigadier General Alfredo Filler, Armed Forces intelligence chief, will become the deputy chief of staff. Filler is replacing Vice Admiral Proceso Fernandez.

Aside from Zulueta and Filler, four more generals are to be appointed to new positions in the Armed Forces.

Ramos Delievers Speech Marking Human Rights Day

HK1012053892 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0216 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Speech by President Fidel V. Ramos on the occasion of the 44th Human Rights Declaration Anniversary at the Plaza Bonifacio, Manila—live; passages within slantlines in English]

[Text] /Mayor Alfredo S. Lim of the City of Manila, Your Excellency, (Kevin McGrath), U.N. Permanent Representative in the Philippines, my co-workers in cabinet and in government, your Excellencies of the diplomatic corps and of the international organizations/, co-workers in government, my countrymen:

I thank you all for being with us in this celebration of /International Human Rights Day/. We observe this day to focus our attention not only on the mistakes of the past but also on reminding everyone of the need to respect the human rights of every Filipino citizen.

/We all share the same goals to attain a Filipino society which upholds the innate dignity of every man, woman, and child. And this is the very principle that our human rights stalwarts—Senator Jose Diokno, Justice JBL Reyes, Chairman Mary Concepcion Bautista—fought and lived for.

/But, truly, we have not yet reached the good society we aspire for. That is why the government has given top priority to the peace process and to economic recovery so that the basic conditions that gave rise to conflict and possible human rights violations in our country are reduced, if not removed./ There are times when we do not share the same views on human rights, especially between the government and some people's organizations. But this is not a cause for misunderstanding. There is only one goal for our nation and countrymen. /We have the same goal, the same vision, the same hopes for our country and our people.

/Tension from time to time between government and some human rights advocates is a necessary element in the democracy we are trying to build. We in government must learn to realize that they are not the enemy. They are rather the guardians of conscience that keep public servants compassionate and transparent and make sure that government workers do their jobs well.

/But understanding must work both ways. Human rights groups must also realize that government and its law enforcement and armed services are not their enemies but their partners in human rights advocacy.

/I would like to see both government and NGO [nongovernment organization] representatives alike to work closely together and to remember that the only valid side for human rights advocates is to take the side of the victim, whoever he or she may be.

/We must not allow either side to exploit one's pain and suffering for political purposes. We must take care of the victim with the same passion and commitment that we give to going after those who have violated his rights. / Human rights work requires both the impatience of an activist and the patience of a teacher. For when we promote human rights, we are building values and changing attitudes for a better and more orderly society—and that takes time.

/Do not go through the process of consciousness-raising, the appreciation and the internalization of the meaning of human rights and why these must be upheld. This requires continuing dedicated effort by all sectors through dialogues and joint action so that both respect for human rights and the rule of law always prevail.

/I assure you that my administration adheres to the principles of human rights. The Constitution guarantees it. Our laws uphold it. And I am personally committed to it. And this government upholds and respects and implements the covenant of the United Nations on human rights and humanitarian laws.

/What can make our job—the job of the NGO's and government—easier is more openness between us or understanding of each one's position, more empathy with one another's situation. If we can all agree on this, then we should be well on our way to genuine cooperation and human rights protection within the rule of law.

/Let us end the agony of those who disappeared by cooperating in the search for their missing kin. Let us pool our resources to bring evacuees displaced by the conflicts back to their homes. And, for this purpose, I would like to inform you that my administration, supported by Congress, has been able to have substantial funds appropriated to take care of so-called internal refugees displaced by internal conflicts.

/Let us then together find the way where the armed conflict does not ravage not only individual life but our economy and our social development.

/We have reached out to communist insurgents, military rebels, and secessionists in search of a lasting peace—peace with justice in our country. Toward this end, our government effected the repeal of Republic Act 1700 [the Anti-Subversion Law]. I have also approved guidelines for the immediate release and nonprosecution of those who had been imprisoned for subversion or rebellion. And a committee is currently reviewing the cases of the reported political prisoners for possible release, hopefully before Christmas, for many of them. We are awaiting the ratification of the amnesty package under Proclamation 10 and 10a of the president by the legislature to cover those who have applied for amnesty under the past administration as well as those to be covered by the recommendations of the National Unification Commission, which is all part of the administration's peace process. I have also directed the Commission on Human Rights to head a committee that will work with the members of the families of the involuntarily disappeared, to find or try to locate the whereabouts of some reported 1,200 persons who have disappeared since 1972, and for that group to have the authority to look into the insides as well as the records of military camps, detention centers, interrogation areas, prisons, and even hospitals to facilitate the search.

/These are only some of the positive steps we have taken to promote and protect human rights in our country. There have been and there are other measures instituted

to respect human rights. But the fundamental quality of human rights advocacy in this government is the foundation on which I have built my presidency, which is the empowerment of our people in accordance with our Constitution. This means that every citizen must share in the decision that affects his life and his future. It means organizing and working together to ensure the delivery of our basic rights to life, to liberty, to food, to shelter, to jobs, to security.

/A second goal of government in close collaboration with the private sector is to develop a strong economy that will enable us to deliver the needs of our people and to bring the nation to the path of sustainable development.

/To ensure all this, we need to achieve the removal of obstacles to an enduring condition of peace with justice that we need for full political, social, economic and cultural development. We have pinpointed many of the root causes: poverty, injustice, and inequitable distribution of wealth. Also overcrowding in our urban centers, among others.

/Our undertaking the pledge of commitment to human rights today is another positive step in our struggle against the conditions that have caused human rights violations among Filipinos. We are prepared to do all we can to prove our seriousness and our political will in this respect.

/In return, I ask all of you—government workers, high officials, and the concerned citizenry—to support our peace initiatives, to use the considerable influence of many among us to help persuade rebels and insurgents and even criminals to give peace a chance to take hold in our country, so that we can finally set our conflicts aside and work together to make this country of ours the best in times to come./

My countrymen, let us together promote our human rights, and we will together achieve a peaceful and prosperous future. So, to all of you, on this day: A prosperous Christmas and a peaceful and progressive New Year. Thank you and long life to all.

Appointments Body Confirms 4 Cabinet Nominations

HK0912153392 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 9 Dec 92

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The Commission on Appointments confirmed the nominations of four cabinet members today. They are Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro, Public Works and Highways Secretary Jose Ping de Jesus, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, and Education Secretary Armand Fabella.

The commission also confirmed the nominations of Alberto Encomienda as Philippine ambassador to Malaysia, and Amado Cortez as foreign service officer 1. Eight military officials were also promoted to the rank of commodores and brigadier generals.

Ramos Names National Security Council Officials

HK1012115492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has appointed three more officials of the National Security Council [NSC]. Romeo Hernandez has been appointed deputy director general, and Augusto Francisco Meyer and Mrs. Abdulia Cardinales as directors.

Hernandez is an expert on national security administration, who began his career as an intelligence officer of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency in 1957. He has also been a component of NSC since its establishment, during which he served as assistant secretary general.

Mr. Meyer is responsible for the NSC's policy studies and socio- economic and cultural affairs branches.

Mrs. Cardinales heads the finance and administrative division.

Thailand

Prasong, France's Cheysson on UN, Border Issues

BK0912144792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1407 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] BANGKOK, Dec 9 (AFP)—The Thai foreign minister said Wednesday his country was standing firm on its refusal to allow United Nations peacekeepers in Cambodia to set up border checkpoints on Thai soil.

Prasong Sunsiri also said Thailand was still seeking a grace period on a U.N-backed ban on log exports from Cambodia to allow Thai companies time to transport trees already felled in their Cambodian concessions.

"All U.N. checkpoints must be on Cambodian soil. That is according to the Paris agreement. Everybody knows that," Prasong said.

Prasong was speaking to reporters after talks with a European Parliament delegation led by former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson.

Cheysson and his delegation arrived here after telling reporters in Phnom Penh Tuesday that Thailand should allow international monitoring of its border in order to enforce a U.N. Security Council-imposed oil embargo and a moratorium on log exports from Cambodia.

"I think there are some very positive signs (in Cambodia) but also some reasons for alarm" because of the inability of Cambodia's U.N. peacekeepers to solve problems created by the Khmer Rouge, Cheysson said after his meeting with Prasong.

In an interview with AFP Cheysson mentioned refugee repatriation and voter registration for elections slated for next May as examples of positive developments in Cambodia following the 1991 U.N.-brokered Paris peace agreement ending the 13-year war.

However he stressed that his delegation had found the U.N. military deployment in Cambodia "completely unsuited to its mission in peace-keeping". U.N. troops should be allowed to use force if necessary, for instance to enter Khmer Rouge-controlled areas, he said.

Cheysson also stressed that Cambodia would need international help beyond next year's elections.

"It is absolutely necessary to get a long-term commitment from the international community in Cambodia," he said.

"What must be done straight away is to get the international community committed beyond the election next year" both in terms of security and economic reconstruction, he said.

"And the Khmer Rouge must be made aware of such a commitment," he added.

"If it proves possible to ensure security and order in Cambodia for a reasonable amount of time, then problems could be solved," he said.

Current U.N. moves against the Khmer Rouge are aimed at pressuring the faction back into the Cambodian peace process by limiting its profitable trade in timber and gems with Thailand.

"The argument that there cannot be a monitoring on the Thai side is not enough for me," Cheysson told reporters in Phnom Penh Tuesday.

But in his remarks here the former French official said that he agreed with the Thai view that all U.N. checkpoints should be on the Cambodian side of the border.

Prasong reiterated that Thailand was ready to comply with any U.N. resolution on Cambodia and that his country would be willing to help out in any emergency.

"I reaffirm that Thailand will cooperate fully with any U.N. resolution," he said.

Prasong said that during his talks with the European delegation he had explained the problems Thai businessmen were facing.

"I told them about the problems of Thai businessmen who have invested heavily in Cambodia, not only in the Khmer Rouge areas but with every faction," he said.

Prasong reiterated earlier statements that there was not enough time before the moratorium on log exports, due to come into effect on December 31, for Thai companies to transport timber alredy felled.

He said Thailand was seeking a grace period for as long as it took to transport logs which had already been cut.

Burmese Not Yet Withdrawn From Positions on Hill

BK1012053292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Chumphon—Burmese troops occupying Hill 491 on the Thai-Burmese border in Tha Sae District have not yet withdrawn from their defensive positions and Thai forces will remain where they are.

Provincial Army Commander Maj-Gen Phairat Khemkhon confirmed yesterday that Thai Rangers and Border Patrol Police units will not withdraw from their positions which are located about a kilometre from Hill 491.

Under a recent Thai-Burmese agreement, troops from both sides must withdraw to areas at least one kilometre away from the disputed hilltop.

Burmese troops will have to climb down the border hill in accordance with the bilateral agreement between Bangkok and Rangoon, the provincial army chief said.

"Burmese soldiers will have to swallow their pride and follow the agreement" Maj-Gen Phairat said.

Local Thai and Burmese authorities have always coordinated with one another well prior to the crisis. Now that the border dispute has been settled by top-level policy-making authorities in the capital cities, local authorities are supposed to initiate follow-up action, he said.

BPP Unit 41 deputy superintendent Pol Lt-Col Thamrong Nampochai said the Burmese commander on Hill 491 contacted police yesterday asking for permission for his troops to come down and buy some food in the inner part of the border district. However, the Burmese commander was told he could not do so until the crisis has been resolved.

In another development, Burmese troops in an area opposite Kraburi District in nearby Ranong Province rotated with those on Hill 491 on Tuesday, sources said.

Logging firms have also resumed their activities after a pause during the height of the recent crisis.

In downtown Chumphon, people cannot find their favourite lottery numbers for the December 16 drawing—491 and 490.

His Majesty the King has jokingly remarked that 491 should be changed to 490 to end the dispute over the border hill.

Army Chief Supports Government on Hill Dispute

BK1012051692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit reaffirmed yesterday that the Government has taken the best measure to solve the problem over the ownership of Hill 491 on the Thai-Burmese border.

Thailand and Burma on Tuesday agreed in Rangoon to settle the territorial dispute by pulling out their troops from Hill 491 to allow a joint technical team—the Thai-Burma Border Negotiation Committee—to clearly define the border.

Both sides agreed to start pulling out their troops on December 15. The troop withdrawal from the hill is to be completed in 10 days.

Asked who is to supervise the pullout, Gen Wimon said since the pullout agreement was based on brotherly relations between the two countries, it is the responsibility of both sides to make sure that their troops do not intrude on each other's territory.

On a suggestion that the land in Hill 491 has been cleared so the landmark has been considerably altered, the army chief said Burmese troops have been positioned on the mountain ridge which borders the two countries and part of the position is on Thai soil but they have not made much of a change to the land surface.

He said he expected no more problems as the joint technical team to define the border will be accompanied by officials concerned from both sides.

The Thai side will be accompanied by officers from the Survey Department.

"It was the friendliest agreement and both sides have reached a very good understanding. Since it takes a long time to develop true friendship, it would be a waste of time to do something that could destroy it," Gen Wimon said.

"I think the Government has done its best in dealing with this problem," he said.

He expressed confidence that the agreement would be truly carried out.

He said there are no interests concerning logging in that area adding that Burmese troops had occupied the hill because of a problem with ethnic minority rebels.

Meanwhile, government officials will hold a meeting tomorrow to prepare for negotiations with Burma next Tuesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said yesterday.

Dr Surin, who led the Thai delegation in its negotiations with Burma last Tuesday on the same issue, said the meeting will be attended by the secretary-general of the National Security Council the director-general of the Locai Administration Department, the director of the Military Map Department and Foreign Ministry officials.

He said Burma would also hold a similar meeting before sending a delegation to Thailand next Tuesday.

The deputy foreign minister said that the border dispute was a sensitive problem that has dragged on for a long time because the treaty between Siam and the Governor of India (England) in 1868 did not specify details of the 2,200-kilometre border.

He said that the borderline had altered slightly due to geographical changes and so both countries must consult each other to work out a clear border that would serve to eliminate possible border conflicts in the future.

Dr Surin said that the negotiations tomorrow would deal only with Hill 491 while talks scheduled later this month would cover the entire borderline.

Asked about reports that Malaysia has unilaterally changed the border marker in Satun Province, Dr Surin said that this may be a misunderstanding as all the facts are not yet known. The centre to administer the five southern border provinces is currently negotiating the matter with Malaysia.

He said that he is confident the problem in Satun can be resolved at the local level.

Chuan Dismisses Criticism of Cambodia Policy

BK1012044892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday dismissed criticism by the European Community that Thailand was not abiding by United Nations sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, saying that the sanctions do not take effect until the 31st of this month.

Mr Chuan said that Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri has made it clear to the world that Thailand will abide by the UN sanctions.

There is no problem with this "in principle" and Thailand would observe the sanctions which take effect on December 31, the Prime Minister said.

He said that in realistic terms Thai villagers working on the Cambodian border cannot be expected to quit their jobs immediately. The Interior and Foreign ministries are looking after this and will seek to minimise the impact of the sanctions on villagers.

The Prime Minister stressed that Thailand has repeatedly said that it would support UN sanctions and there is no reason why Thailand would not do this. However, in practice the Government would have to look after Thai businessmen and traders to ensure that they suffer as little damage as possible.

He said that this was why he has asked only officials directly responsible for the Cambodian issue to comment on the matter in an effort to prevent confusion.

Mr Chuan was speaking to reporters after chairing a meeting at Government House on the project to protect forests and revive watershed areas.

On the forestry issue, Mr Chuan said that in the past there have been many weak points in reafforestation efforts but the Agriculture Minister has given him reassurances that the effort will yield more results in the future.

He said that project officials had asked for the permanent secretary or the ministers to coordinate implementation of their efforts and he has asked the senior officials concerned to help in this task.

The Democrat Party leader said that the penalty for forest poaching is already sufficiently severe enough but the problem was that the real financial backers of such illegal activities are never caught.

Asked if the controversial Kaeng Sua Ten dam will be built in Phrae Province because the Government has not yet given the villagers a clear answer, Mr Chuan said the Government was still studying various dam projects designed to provide water for the central region.

He said that the major problem with this particular dam was how much of an area will be flooded and how much compensation will be paid to villagers.

Officials To Query Malaysia Over Border Markers

BK0712035192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Satun—Thai officials will today ask their Malaysian counterparts why they have installed small borderline markers between Perlis State in Malaysia and tambon Puyu in Muang district here.

Border demarcation stones already exist along the border but Perlis State officials have installed new border markers which has caused confusion among the local Thai authorities.

The authorities, however, will ask their Malaysian counterparts to clarify the issue during a meeting between provincial governor Hiran Sittikowit and Perlis State sultan Abdul Hamed Pawante scheduled for today.

The small border markers, however, might have been installed in line with the plan to build a wall between Muang districts' tambon Puyu and the Malaysian state, a source said.

Puyu residents also told the local authorities here that the Malaysians in Perlis State pushed them out of their traditional fishing grounds in the Andaman Sea after setting up the new demarcation line.

Spokesman: U.S. Postpones Decision on GSP Status

BK0912142292 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said yesterday that the Foreign Ministry had received a report from the U.S. Embassy on 7 December that the Generalized System of Preferences Subcommittee of the United States had agreed to postpone its consideration and decision slated for 15 December on a request by the International Labor Organization that Thailand's GSP status be withdrawn. The subcommittee will wait for progress of the improvement of Thai labor rights until April 1993.

Sakthip said that the subcommittee reached the decision after considering the attitude and policy of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's government and realized that the Thai Government has a policy to improve labor rights. The United States believed that the present Thai Government has shown its real intention to improve labor rights in the country. However, the U.S. decision is just a postponement for making a decision for a period. The U.S. has expressed its wishes that the Thai side will make progress in improving its labor rights within April.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry had earlier assigned the permanent secretary for foreign affairs and the director general of the American and South Pacific Department, who was going to attend an Asia-Pacific senior officials meeting on economic cooperation in Washington, to follow up the GSP issue.

PRC Overseas Chinese Affairs Delegation Arrives

BK1012081092 Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese 9 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] Li Xinghao, deputy director of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of China, and his four-member delegation arrived in Thailand yesterday afternoon for a friendly 12-day visit at the invitation of the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce. Other members of the delegation are Li Linlin, Zhuang Yuanyuan, and Yang Yi. During the visit, the delegation will visit relevant agencies and associations to learn of the situation of overseas Chinese and to brief them on the good situation and achievements of China's open-door and economic reform policy. The delegation is expected to be warmly welcomed by personalities from various Thai-Chinese circles.

Government Adopts Cautious AFTA Policy

BK1012073892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 92 p B3

[Text] Thailand has adopted a cautious policy in its participation in the tariff reduction scheme under the regional free trade area, Afta, putting the best possible

proposal on the table while aiming to give the local industries some flexibility in adjusting to a more competitive environment.

Under the fast track programme, Thailand plans in the vegetable oil sector, to put palm oil, soybean oil and coconut oil on the exclusion list. It also intends to place petrochemical products, plastics and some electronic items for tariff reduction in the normal track.

Tariff reduction under the fast track will take into account the broad agreement reached among the Asean member countries and the customs structure of finished products, semifinished products and raw materials, whose tariffs will be commensurately cut.

Thailand will honour the pledge made by former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to his Asean counterparts that all manufactured products with tariffs higher than 30 percent will be brought down to 30 percent by Jan 1, 1993.

The 15 product sectors in the fast track are vegetable oil, cement, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer, plastics, rubber products, leather, pulp, textiles, ceramics, gems and jewellery, cathodes, electronics, and furniture.

Under the fast track, tariff rates of more than 20 percent must be brought down to no more than 5 percent within 10 years, while rates equivalent to or less than 20 percent must be cut to 0-5 percent within seven years. However, the Asean member countries have the option of excluding some items from the product sectors for temporary protection.

Under the normal track of tariff cuts, Thailand will reduce all rates higher than 30 percent to 30 percent by Jan 1, 1993, similar to the fast track agreement. The exceptions are petrochemical products, some electronic items and processed agricultural products, whose rates, if higher than 30 percent, will be brought down to 30 percent by Jan 1, 1996.

The exclusion list comprises those products for which a member country may seek temporary protection, allowing its local industries more time to adjust to outside competition. But in the eight years following 1993, these products on the exclusion lists must be revised so that they can be placed in the normal Afta programme.

Thailand's exclusion list, consisting of a combined 116 product items, is as follows: Pork (six items) Vegetable oil (eight items) Liquor (three items) Tobacco (eight items) Copper and copper products (one item) Aluminium and aluminium products (two items) Electrical appliances (30 items) Cars and car parts (58 items)

Even under Afta, Thailand's strategy is to cut tariffs under a unified structure that the Finance Ministry is working on. For fertilizer, the tariffs will be exempted, for raw materials, 1 percent; primary products, 5 percent, semifinished products, 10 percent, finished products, 20 percent; specially protected products, 30 percent; passenger cars, 42 percent and 68.5 percent.

The Finance Ministry has already brought down tariff rates in some basic sectors such as machinery equipment, computer and parts, steel and chemicals. In the early period of the Afta programme, the Thai tariff structure will not be drastically changed because the general rates are not significantly different from those offered for cuts to the other Asean members.

Foot Soldiers To Testify Before Panel on Missing

BK1012061692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 92 p A2

[Excerpts] Soldiers who crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in May will be summoned to testify to help authorities locate about 100 people still listed as missing following the bloodshed, Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

The minister said the questioning of the soldiers would help the panel wrap up the investigations into the missing people in about three weeks.

Chawalit said the government committee searching for the missing people would ask the 9th Infantry Division to allow the soldiers who were deployed to clear anti-Suchinda rallies to testify soon.

"We want to ask the operational soldiers, like army truck drivers, not their commanders," Chawalit said. "We want to ask them what they saw at that time."

Chawalit was speaking to reporters yesterday after the committee convened its seventh meeting since the panel was formed by the Chuan Government.

The interior minister said the number of those still listed as missing had decreased to 109.

Chawalit did not say exactly when the soldiers would be summoned to testify.

It will be the first time that lowranking soldiers carrying out orders during the May bloodshed would be questioned. A government committee set up by the Anan II government initially planned to summon the soldiers to testify but the panel's term expired following the formation of the new government.

Chawalit said the committee would hold a meeting next month to summarize all its findings and would consider whether there were more things to be done. If not, the panel would cease to operate, Chawalit said. [passage omitted]

Chawalit said yesterday that his committee had sent eight teams to visit those injured in the bloodshed and the families of the slain protesters to gather information about the missing people.

Meanwhile, the panel also has another team probing areas suspected to be burial grounds, Chawalit said.

The interior minister said the panel would send letters to the military commanders to formally ask them to cooperate in the probe into the missing "so that the public will feel all government agencies are trying to help find the truth." [passage omitted]

Chat Phatthana, Chat Thai Parties Consider Merger

BK1012055292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 92 pp A1-A2

[Text] Senior members of the Chat Phatthana and Chat Thai parties yesterday confirmed an idea to merge the two major opposition camps, but were divided over the plan which would have far-reaching political implications.

If merged, Chat Phatthana and Chat Thai, which control a combined 137 MPs, would become the biggest political party and ex-prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan would again emerge a serious contender to the premiership.

First publicity of the merger idea came in casual talks during a dinner party of Opposition MPs at the Ambassador Hotel on Tuesday night. At the party, senior Chat Phatthana and Chat Thai members joked about the imminent formation of a "Chat Thai Phatthana Party".

Deputy Chat Thai leader Bun-ua Prasoetsuwan confirmed yesterday the merger idea was mooted by Chat Thai leader Praman Adireksan and Chat Thai Secretary-General Banhan Sinlapa-acha.

"It's an initiative of the party leader and the secretary-general," Bun-ua said.

But Bun-ua stressed that Chat Thai members had not formally discussed the issue.

"There has not been any discussion among party members. We can't call it anything other than a mere initiative which needs to be discussed among members of Chat Thai and Chat Phatthana parties," he said.

Political observers said while the merger move may pose a big psychological threat to the government, it could as well create widespread resentment among senior members of Chat Thai and Chat Phatthana.

If the two parties merged, the leader could automatically claim legitimacy to form a govemment in the event that the Chuan coalition crumbled. Even if Prime Minister Chuan Likphai decided to dissolve Parliament, the new party would most likely score a big poll vlctory and become the biggest political force.

But the merger will materialize only if key leaders of the two parties can agree on the most sensitive issue—power-sharing.

Moreover, certain Chat Phatthana key men want to achieve a short-term goal of joining the Chuan government first according to Chat Phatthana sources. And it would be easier for their party to join the Chuan coalition as a "mediumsized" party, they said.

"Chuan will accept a party with 60 MPs, but not one bigger than his own party," said one of the sources

Chat Phatthana and Chat Thai are seen as waiting in the wings to join the Chuan coalition, whose members have been wrangling over several key issues. The source said that the merger would have a big political impact only if it occurred after Parliament completed its term or was dissolved.

"Under the current political situation, the merger would only reduce the number of Opposition parties while the Opposition's strength would remain the same," he said.

The Democrat Party, currently the biggest political camp, also maintains a formidable advantage in the event of the prime minister's resignation, political analysts say. Democrat MP Marut Bunnak is serving as Parliament president who is constitutionally empowered to nominate the prime minister.

Chuan can be re-nominated prime minister even if the Democrat Party became the second biggest party, they note.

Deputy Chat Phatthana leader Kon Thapparangsi, who during Tuesday's party, playfully talked about the merger, changed his tune yesterday.

"It's a party joke and I won't comment on it," he said. "There's nothing. If the media stop reporting on this, it's over."

But in an earlier interview yesterday, Kon himself confirmed there were discussions between the two parties' leaders on the merger idea.

Pancha Kesonthong, another Chat Phatthana leader, described the idea as "impossible".

"It's not an easy thing to do," Pancha said. "Each party has its own direction, its own policy. We have to find a very good reason if the two parties are to merge. And I think Chat Phatthana has done a good job politically on its own."

Pancha stressed that such a merger plan must first win the approval of party members. "The party leaders alone can't make such a decision," he said.

Pancha said he did not agree with the merger plan and "I think the majority of Chat Phatthana members don't either.

Vietnam

9 Dec Assembly Opening Reported

BK0912164192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Report by correspondent Ngoc Ky on the opening of the Ninth National Assembly's second session on 9 December in Hanoi]

[Summary] Dear friends: The Ninth National Assembly's second session solemnly opened this morning at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. Before the session opened, the deputies paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum.

Attending the opening session were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Pham Van Dong and Comrade Vo Chi Cong, advisors to the party Central Committee; Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the state; and Comrade Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the government. Also attending were many comrades representing the various sectors; members of the diplomatic corps; and local and foreign radio and television correspondents."

After the military band played the national anthem, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh read the opening speech. He said:

[Begin Nong Duc Manh recording] Dear Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; dear Comrade Pham Van Dong, advisor to the party Central Committee; dear Comrade Vo Chi Cong, advisor to the party Central Committee; dear Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; dear Comrade Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the government; deputies; distinguished guests; members of the diplomatic corps; and foreign friends: I cordially welcome delegates who have come from all parts of the nation to attend this session. On behalf of the National Assembly, I warmly welcome distinguished guests, members of the diplomatic corps, and foreign friends to the opening of the second session of the SRV Ninth National Assembly. [prolonged applause]

Dear National Assembly deputies: Over the past year, sectors, echelons, compatriots, and combatants nationwide have continued to encounter many difficulties. However, under the party's leadership, they have made efforts to implement the resolutions of the Seventh Party Congress and the National Assembly and have begun to score very encouraging achievements.

In 1992, we effected important changes in the structure of the political system. The Eighth National Assembly adopted the 1992 Constitution, which serves as the basic law of our country. Last July, our people nationwide enthusiastically participated in the election of National Assembly deputies. Then, the Ninth National Assembly's first session elected leading organs and high-level state leaders.

As far as the socioeconomic situation is concerned, there have been positive changes in many fields. For the first time in many years, we have fulfilled or overfulfilled many important targets of the state plan. The grain output has reached a record level. Industrial production is on the rise. External economic relations have been broadened. The export index has increased. Market prices have gradually stabilized. Inflation continues to be checked. National defense and security have been ensured. Political stability has firmly been maintained.

These achievements are the fruit of the common efforts to renovate the management mechanism and to invest in the building of material and technical bases for many years now. The application of more uniform measures to improve the mechanism and policies has exerted a positive effect on production and life. Major investment projects in water conservancy, electricity, oil and gas, cement, and so forth built in the past have now become operational and serve as a contributive factor to economic growth. The application of a correct foreign policy and a correct external economic line has created a more favorable international environment capable of stimulating and broadening import-export activities and of attracting foreign investment capital.

The achievements and mistakes in the process of renovating the mechanism and policies since 1985 have taught us how to gradually improve ways to organize and to oversee the operations of the various sectors and echelons, as well as how to motivate people nationwide to satisfactorily carry out socioeconomic development tasks adopted by the National Assembly.

As we enter 1993, new opportunities have presented themselves. However, great challenges and complicated developments still lay ahead. The year 1993 is of particular significance because it is a pivotal year in the implementation of the socioeconomic development tasks of the 1991-95 five-year plan. It is necessary to formulate correct policies and work out effective measures to continue to lead the country forward.

Dear deputies: At this session, the National Assembly will thoroughly consider and evaluate the results of the implementation of the 1992 tasks, devoting much time to discussing and deciding on the 1995 socioeconomic development tasks on the economic, social, national defense, security, and diplomatic fronts. Special importance will be attached to measures to cope with corruption and smuggling. In the legislative domain, the National Assembly will discuss and adopt the draft law on amending and supplementing a number of provisions of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam and the draft law on amending and supplementing a number of provisions of the criminal code. The National Assembly will also give its views on the draft law on amending and supplementing a number of provisions of the law on land before soliciting the people's suggestions. In addition, the National Assembly will decide on a number of other important issues.

Dear National Assembly deputies: Prompted by a high sense of responsibility toward voters nationwide, I suggest that we, National Assembly deputies, develop democracy, hold positive discussions, and contribute many practical suggestions to make the session a success.

I would like to declare the SRV Ninth National Assembly's second session open. [prolonged applause] [end recording]

Next, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet presented the socio-economic report.

In his report, he provided a general assessment of the socioeconomic situation and diplomatic activities in 1992. He cited the many important policies on the exploitation of all sources of investment for development, on achieving financial and monetary stability, on various cultural and social issues, on financial reform, and on the need to enhance public law and order in order to further bring the country forward.

In appraising the 1992 socioeconomic situation, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] 1992 will be concluded with relatively comprehensive economic successes. This year we have attained and even exceeded many targets of the main activity plan passed by the National Assembly. Compared with 1991, the 1992 national income increased by approximately 5.3 percent; industrial output was up by 14.15 percent; agricultural output rose 4.4 percent; grain output reached approximately 24 million metric tonnes or an increase of 9 percent; state investment in capital construction increased by 25 percent; direct foreign investment by 73 percent; domestic budgetary revenue by 82 percent; and export value by 19 percent.

In 1991, we successfully managed to stand firmly on our own feet despite tough ordeals at a time when our inflation-laden economy was still not out of the crisis, coupled with the loss of a great source of aid from the former Soviet Union and the U.S. maintaining its embargo.

In 1992, we increasingly asserted our potential and ability to overcome these ordeals. Economically, we have been able to meet our essential demands for materials and goods through our own efforts and through barter trade with the outside world. Obstacles caused by the U.S. embargo have failed to blockade and isolate our country and did not prevent other countries from broadening their relations with Vietnam.

Over the past two years, exports have increased rapidly although our economic and trade ties with the former Soviet and East European market have declined unexpectedly.

Since the law on investment was introduced, there have been 40 countries investing directly in Vietnam. Their total registered capital in licensed projects amounted to over 5 billion U.S. dollars. Foreign investment capital in 1992 alone is double last year's. Apart from oil and gas, there have been many relatively large investment projects reported in both the south and the north.

While coping with and overcoming new ordeals, we have made an important step in dispelling inflation and the economic crisis.

Scientific, educational, cultural, information, public health, physical education, and sport activities and efforts to implement various social policies in the past year have also shown improvement. The people face lesser difficulties. A bulk of the people have had their lives noticeably improved. The scourge of people fleeing by boat has almost ceased.

Our state is firm in its open-minded and flexible foreign policy. Our policy to settle all disputes through negotiations has made positive contribution to preserving the peaceful, stable, and cooperative environment in the region. While new complex developments are emerging in the national security and defense situation, this policy has won the sympathy and widespread support of the world. Meanwhile, various measures designed to protect our territorial sovereignty and guarantee our national security and defense have also been strengthened.

Diplomatic activities have continued to be broadened along the the direction of positivity, dynamism, and better coordination, and with foreign economic ties and with international cooperation in science, culture, the arts, physical education, and sports, and so forth.

Those successes and improvements achieved in 1992 were the integrated fruits of the renovation that is being carried out along the line and policies laid down by our party and state. The renovation is also being increasingly reinforced with appropriate steps and practical conditions to generate sympathy and high unanimity among the society.

The state apparatus's guidance for work implementation has shown new improvements and more experiences have been learned in the use of various macro management instruments. There has not been as much confusion as in the initial years when we first switched to the market system. [end recording]

After affirming encouraging achievements, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also pointed out various weaknesses in his report. Prominent are that the results of the economy, in general, are still poor; the extent of investment accumulation still small; the labor output low; the quality of many kinds of processed products, less competitive; the consumption market, small; management work, laden with loopholes and inefficiency; efforts to curb smuggling and counterfeiting activities, still unsuccessful; the budget deficit, still great; monetary circulation, not smooth enough; and the capital market, less developed.

Sluggish efforts to reorganize and rectify the management of the state-run sector, to renovate cooperativization, and apply new policies toward peasant-, family-, individually, and privately run economies have limited the efforts to unleash and develop the production force of the entire society. Worthy of note is that the social situation has developed lethargically. There are still many big problems and some of them are serious. Generally speaking, the social life, including activities of various state organs, has yet to be aligned in accordance with the law and there is a failure to eliminate the scourge of corruption, tax evasion, and dishonest dealings.

Entering 1993, we will not underestimate the difficulties to be overcome. Apart from having to continue to overcome residual weaknesses, we should anticipate the complex developments in international relations, notably those in the region, and should always heighten our vigilance against schemes and acts of sabotage that may hinder our progress. In general, the positive developments over the years, especially in 1992, have however been opening up new socioeconomic opportunities and creating a new position with favorable capabilities and opportunities for development.

Analyzing and pointing out the specific tasks and objectives of the 1993 state plan, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet stressed:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] The state pledges to implement its multisectoral economic policy consistently and strictly in order to ensure that every one and every economic unit—irrespective of its form of ownership—can freely engage in trade in accordance with the law, and to create favorable environment and conditions while guiding and assisting investment efforts for development.

In 1993, we can and must continue to reduce the inflation rate to less than 15 percent, attempt to keep the inflation rate in single digits in order to maintain the actual purchasing power of the money under the new wage system to be applied this year, while reducing the risks for local and foreign investors in the application of a uniform pricing system.

The most important approach is to balance the budget in accordance with the new method in conjunction with efforts to renovate the monetary system.

In 1993 and the ensuing years, we will continue to persistently struggle to build and to develop a modern culture with a strong national identity along with efforts to broaden our cultural exchanges with foreign countries to further enrich our national culture. Cultural and artistic activities should lay strong emphasis on our society's noble values and should resolutely criticize the social vices that are now underming our nation's fine customs and tradition.

We can and must solve the unemployment issue. We must link this with various policies to increase investment for a development that will be based on the enhancement of the capabilities of every person, family, and grass-roots unit. The state will assist mainly through the building of the infrastructure and the granting of loans with preferential conditions.

From actual experience, in 1993 we should deploy vigorously and more promptly the budget to finance various job creation projects. Priority should be given to land reclamation, afforestation, industrial crop projects, afforestation projects to cover empty land and bare hills, as well as others aimed at developing small-scale production and business establishments and their activities.

The new wage system is a successive step of the process of wage reform, after our basic monetarization of various in-kind wage systems in 1992. The main purpose of the new wage system is to rationalize income between the various sectors and administrative and service organs, while overcoming the indiscrimiate character of the old wage system.

In 1993, based on the law governing the organization of the government, it is necessary to clearly define the responsibility and powers of cabinet ministers as well as that of the local administrations. Only by clearly defining the contents of state management at each echelon and the functions of each state employee can we bring state management activities onto the right track in order to help state administrative organs stay closer to the infrastructure and the people. [end recording]

Finally, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet concluded his report by saying:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] Not only will the 1993 socioeconomic development tasks to be discussed and decided at this session guide the various aspects of work, they will also promote our entire people to uphold their pride and their nation's indomitable tradition, to develop what they have gained, and to exploit promptly and fully new opportunities to quickly advance the country along the renovation path and to defeat poverty and backwardness.

We have sufficient grounds to believe that the socioeconomic development in our country in 1993 will be marked by a vigorous step. [applause] [end recording]

Dear friends: Also at this morning's opening session, the deputies heard the following:

—Dau Ngoc Xuan, minister and director of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment, who read a report on supplementing and amending a number of provisions of the Law on Foreign Investment;
—Comrade Ha Manh Tri, who presented an investigative report on the draft law on amending and supplementing a number of provisions of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam; and
—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, who read a report recommending Comrade Nguyen Van Ha, director of the Investigation and Planning Institute of the Ministry of Forestry, as minister of forestry.

This afternoon, the National Assembly continued to work in the conference hall, making preparations for the approval of a decision on appointment of the minister of forestry. The National Assembly elected the ballot tabulating committee headed by Comrade National Assembly deputy Pham Loi. Next, the National Assembly heard the following:

—Comrade Ho Te, minister of finance, who read a report on the implementation of the 1992 state budget and on the projected 1993 budget allocations;

—Comrade Do Quoc Sam, minister and director of the State Planning Commission, who read a report on the status of capital construction; and
—Comrade Hoang Duc Huy, minister and director of the Office for Mountain Regions and Nationalities, who read a report on the socioeconomic situation in the mountain regions."

Issues Communique No.1

BK0912153992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Communique No.1 of the Second Session of the Ninth National Assembly—date not given]

[Text] After National Assembly deputies had paid their tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, the Second Session of the Ninth SRV National Assembly solemnly opened at the Ba Dinh conference hall in Hanoi on the morning of 9 December 1992.

Attending the session were Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Pham Van Dong and Vo Chi Cong, advisors to the party Central Committee; Le Duc Anh, president of the state; Vo Van Kiet, prime minister; Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the National Assembly; high-ranking leaders of the National Assembly; and deputies of the Ninth National Assembly. Also present were members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of various international organizations in Hanoi and various local and foreign new agencies and newspapers.

At 0830 sharp, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh declared the session open. Afterward, the National Assembly in turn heard:

—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet report on the situation regarding the implementation of various tasks on socioeconomic development, on national defense and security, and on the state budget in 1992; and on the orientations and tasks for socioeconomic development, for national defense and security, and for the state budget for 1993.
—Mr. Dau Ngoc Xuan, head of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment, who on behalf of the government, read a report on the draft law on the admendment and supplement to a number of articles in the law on foreign investment in Vietnam.
—Mr. Ha Manh Tri, head of the National Assembly Judicial Committee, who on behalf of his committee, read an investigative report on the draft law on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam.
—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet read a report, asking the National Assembly to ratify the appointment of the minister of forestry.

At its afternoon session, the National Assembly elected a vote-counting committee to ratify the appointment of the minister of forestry. This committee had five members with Mr. Pham Loi, a National Assembly deputy from Hanoi as chairman.

Afterward, the National Assembly continued to hear:

—Mr. Ho Te, minister of finance, on behalf of the government, report on the situation regarding the implementation of the 1992 state budget, the 1993 state budget estimate, and the final balance for the 1992 state budget.
—Mr. Do Quoc San, minister of state in charge of the State Planning Commission, on behalf of the government, report on a number of issues regarding capital construction.
—Mr. Hoang Duc Nghi, minister of state in charge of the Mountain Regions and Nationalities Committee, on behalf of the government, report on the situation regarding the implementation of the socioeconomic policy toward the ethnic and mountain regions.

10 Dec Plenary Meeting

BK1012063092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Today, 10 December, the second work day of the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session, the National Assembly held a plenary meeting at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi.

The National Assembly heard reports by the following comrades:

—Comrade Mai Thuc Lan, chairman of the National Assembly's Economic and Budget Committee, reported on the socioeconomic issue and the state budget situation;
—Comrade Y Ngong Niek Dam, chairman of the Nationalities Council, reported on issues related to nationalities and the mountain regions;
—Comrade Tran Thi Tam Dan, chairman of the National Assembly's Culture, Education, Youth, Teenagers, and Children, reported on issues related to culture, education, youth, teenagers, and children.;
—Comrade Nguyen Thi Than, chairman of the National Assembly's Committee for Social Issues, reported on various so ial issues;
—Comrade Dang Quan Thuy, chairman of the National Assembly's National Defense and Security Committee, reported on issues related to national defense and security; and
—Comrade Vu Dinh Cu, chairman of the National Assembly's Science, Technology, and Environment Committee, reported on issues related to science, technology, and the environment.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will continue its plenary session at the conference hall.

10 Dec Proceedings Updated

BK1012115592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Today, the second work day of the Ninth National Assembly's second session, the National Assembly held a plenary meeting at the conference hall.

In the morning, National Assembly deputies heard:

—An investigative report by Comrade Mai Thuc Lan, chairman of the National Assembly's Economic and Budget Committee, on socioeconomic issues and the state budget;
—A report by Comrade Y Ngong Niek Dam, chairman of the Nationalities Council, on issues concerning nationalities and mountainous regions;
—A report by Comrade Tran Thi Tam Dan, chairman of the Culture, Education, Youth, Teenager, and Children's Committee, on issues concerning culture, education, youths, teenagers, and children;
—A report by Comrade Nguyen Thi Than, chairman of the Committee for Social Problems, on social issues;
—A report by Comrade Dang Quan Thuy, chairman of the National Defense and Security Committee, on issues concerning national defense and security; and
—A report by Comrade Vu Dinh Cu, chairman of the Science, Technology, and Environment Committee, on issues concerning science, technology, and environment.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly heard:

—A report by Comrade Nguyen Ky Cam, state inspector general, on enforcing laws and measures against corruption and smuggling;
—A report by Comrade Pham Hung, chief justice of the Supreme People's Court, on the work of the court sector; and
—A report by Comrade Le Thanh Dao, chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, on the work of the organs of control.

Comrade Ha Manh Tri, chairman of the National Assembly's Judiciary Committee, presented a statement of his committee on the aforementioned reports.

Voters Raise 'Urgent' Issues With Do Muoi

BK0912051192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] On 1 December, the government and Vietnam Fatherland Front in the precincts of Ba Dinh, Hai Ba Trung, and Dong Da and the districts of Gia Lam and Tu Liem held public meetings for local voters and Hanoi Ninth National Assembly deputies.

The voters raised with the National Assembly and government many urgent issues regarding Hanoi and the nation. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and several other National Assembly deputies attended the meeting in Ba Dinh Precinct, where the voters expressed their opinions on socioeconomic development, anticorruption, and laws on land use and investment.

They said that it is encouraging that living conditions, prices, and money values have been much more stable than before. They have also noted that the government is paying more attention to social welfare policies. The poor and social welfare recipients are given more care.

In the coming period, in order to continue the socioeconomic development, they suggested that anticorruption work be carried out more resolutely and efficiently, starting with high level government officials. And the antismuggling work must start within the government organizations.

They also suggested that salaries should be improved and funding for education and medical services should be increased. Firstly, the government should guarantee minimum living conditions for teachers so that they can concentrate better on their education and training service for the country's younger generation.

Vo Van Kiet Visits Tra Vinh, Vinh Long Provinces

BK0712141792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Summary from poor reception] After paying a working visit to Can Tho and Soc Trang Provinces, on 21-23 November, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited and worked with Tra Vinh and Vinh Long Provinces, which were recently separated from the former Cuu Long Province.

At Tra Vinh Province, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet heard leading cadres of the province report on the socioeconomic situation since its separation from Cuu Long Province. He also made an inspection tour of areas severely hit by typhoon Nos. 6 and 7 in Duyen Hai District. Afterward, he visited a number of Khmer families in Chau Thanh District and toured the Ong Nhat Pagoda in Tra Vinh City.

At the 30 April State Farm in Long Toan Village, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet heard leading cadres of the village and cadres of Duyen Hai and Cau Ngang Districts report on casualties caused by the typhoons to their village and districts. In Duyen Hai Distirct, almost 90 percent of the shrimp farms were damaged, more than 1,000 hectares of rice and subsidiary food crops were submerged, and many houses and roads were damaged. According to the provincial report, casualties caused to Duyen Hai District was at 11 billion dong, and to Cau Ngang District 20 billion dong. Immediately after the typhoon subsided, Tra Vinh Province promptly sent officials to provide help to the local people and take appropriate measures to overcome the typhoon consequences.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet commended the Tra Vinh provincial party committee and people for their great efforts in helping the local people overcome difficulties

to quickly restore production and to stabilize their daily life. He urged the province to draw promptly on experiences from this natural calamity to map out preventive plans for the future so that production can be quickly restored, prompt relocation of the population can be made, and measures to overcome the typhoon consequences can be quickly taken.

On 23 November, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited Vinh Long Province at the time when the province was commemorating the 52d anniversary of the Nam Ky Uprising.

Attending the meeting held by the province to mark the anniversary of the uprising and to encourage the implementation of the provincial youth's program of action, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet recalled the gallant atmosphere during the Nam Ky Uprising and urged the people to turn toward the original land of Nam Ky, the land of great pride and strength that has set a good example for generations of Vietnamese to overcome poverty and backwardness. He urged the youth to strive to enhance the national glorious traditions and implement great Uncle Ho's concepts. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said:

[Begin Vo Van Kiet recording] To surge forward to build Vietnam into a prosperous and beautiful country, we must rely on the younger generation. On behalf of the party and the government, I wish our youth successes in all domains. I wish that they will be able to overcome all difficulties, score ever greater achievements, and triumphantly build Vietnam into a rich, strong, and beautiful country ready to advance toward the 21st century. Once again, I wish our youth all victories, and I am convinced that they can consistently uphold the fine tradition of our forefathers. [applause] [end recording]

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also held a working session with the standing committee of the Vinh Long provincial party and people's committees. They discussed the provincial socioeconomic situation and development program for 1993 and the ensuing years. The prime minister commended the province's party committee and people for their efforts to quickly stabilize the province's administrative organization and score initial achievements in the socioeconomic development program. He also suggested orientations and measures for the province to develop its socioeconomic situation in the days ahead.

Le Xuan Trinh Speaks on Development Achievements

BK0912052092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] In 1992 Vietnam has entered a state of stability and development. This is the first year in which Vietnam surpassed all the major targets set forth by the national assembly. This reduced inflation and averted an economic crisis. This was stated by Minister of Finance Le Xuan Trinh [title as heard] in an interview granted to the Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN recently. Following are excerpts from Mr Trinh's interview:

According to the national statistics, Vietnam ended 1992 with encouraging economic achievements. This is the first time Vietnam successfully topped almost all the major targets set forth by the national asembly. The national income is estimated to be 5 percent higher than that of the previous year [word indistinct] agricultural output increased by 15 percent above the plan of 6 or 7 percent. Minister Le Xuan Trinh also said in 1991 Vietnam overcame several tough obstacles and entered 1992 with a state of stability and development. In fact, Vietnam has taken a major step in fighting inflation and preventing an economic crisis. The inflation rate in 1991 was some 70 percent and in 1992 is expected to be reduced to 15 percent.

As for the orientation for socioeconomic development in 1993, Minister Le Xuan Trinh said Vietnam was trying to stabilize the economy and take new steps toward development with the focus on the construction of major projects to boost the national economy and to solve the immediate difficulties of people's living conditions and to step up external economic relations while consolidating security and national defense and maintaining social order.

Justice Minister on Financial Banking System

BK1012081592 Hanoi VNA in English 0628 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] [no dateline as received] Vietnamese and foreign exports have made an overview of the banking system in Vietnam as part of an effort to improve the banking and financial system in the country.

The experts, gathered at a seminar held in Hanoi on Monday and Tuesday, studied how Vietnamese laws were effecting banks and banking in general and examined past problems including the problem of credit cooperatives in 1989.

The seminar, jointly organised by the Ministry of Finance, the State Bank of Vietnam, Fred and Co. and Smith, Lyons, Torrence, Stevenson and Mayer, also heard many papers delivered by foreign experts.

Present at the seminar were also Justice Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc and other Vietnamese officials.

Report on Talks With Motorola Executives

BK0812145992 Hanoi VNA in English 1433 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec.8—Mr. Dang Van Than, directorate general of Post and Telecommunication, held talks here today with businessmen from the US Company Motorola led by Senior Executive Richard Younts, on a current visit to Vietnam.

During the talks, the two sides exchanged views on possibilities of cooperation in telecommunication. The Vietnamese side spoke about the modernization of its communication system in recent years, and reaffirmed that from 1993 with 150 channels of direct link with the United States, Vietnam's international telecommunication service would have new favourable conditions, substantially increasing its foreign currency income.

This is the sixth US post and telecommunication company to have business contact with Vietnam.

Spokesman Rejects Nationals Voting in Cambodia

BK0912164292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi Dec 9 (AFP)—Vietnam rejected Wednesday a Cambodian faction leader's proposal to allow Vietnamese nationals originating from Cambodia to vote in the 1993 U.N.-administered general elections in Cambodia.

These elections "are not the concern of the Khmers who are Vietnamese nationals and who live in Vietnam," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Former prime minister Son Sann made the proposal to include the ethnic Khmers in Phnom Penh Tuesday during a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

"The Paris peace accords on Cambodia and the general election legislation already adopted by the SNC state clearly which people are eligible to vote in the elections," the spokesman said, adding the documents prescribe that only those born in Cambodia and with parents born in Cambodia can vote.

Son Sann made his proposal in the name of the two non-communist factions opposed to the Phnom Penh government installed by Vietnam in 1979—the Khmer People's National Liberation Front which he heads, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk's faction FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia].

"Kampuchea Krom," the Mekong delta region in southern Vietnam, was centuries ago part of Cambodia, but was slowly colonised by Vietnamese from the north.

Son Sann is himself a so-called "Khmer Krom" and as such cannot participate in the elections which the United Nations hope to hold before May 1993 to end the Cambodian conflict.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Burmese Agriculture Minister

BK0812143792 Hanoi VNA in English 1408 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec.8—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here today Mr. Myint Aung, minister of agriculture of Myanmar [Burma], and his party on a working visit to Vietnam.

Also present at the reception were Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry and Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam U Win Shein.

Minister Myint Aung said that the purpose of his visit is to study experiences in agricultural development, especially small-size irrigation system for the production of two rice crops a year and farm product processing for export.

Speaking to their guests Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet thanked the Myanmar Government and people for their present assistance of Vietnam in the gemstone area. He stressed that the traditional relations between the two countries would be a basis for broadening their cooperation on agriculture as well as economy, trade and culture in the interests of each country and for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region. He reaffirmed that Vietnam is prepared to share its experiences, especially in wet rice cultivation, with Myanmar. He said ne believed that Minister Myint Aung's visit would open a new stage in the Vietnam-Myanmar relations.

Radio Views Finnish Development Assistance Programs

BK0912065392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Dec 92

["A Review of Finnish-Vietnam Relations To Mark the 75th Anniversary of Finland's Independence"]

[Summary] "During the first 10 years since the official establishment of diplomatic relations between Finland and Vietnam, the Finnish Government has always declared sympathy for Vietnam and transferred its precious support. This relationship and cooperation have been developed intensively.

"Finland's support and assistance in operating the water supply system to the two major cities of Hanoi and Haiphong is very effective. The water supply project in Hanoi is the first project between Vietnam and a European country with the purpose of upgrading the city's water supply system. The project will last for a total of nine years with three stages. Up to now the first two stages have been completed and the last stage is now being carried out to meet the local demand for water by the year 2000.

"Besides financial aid, Finland has also helped train personnel and technicians for Vietnam."

Besides the ongoing projects, in April 1992 a delegation of the Finnish Overseas Development Agency visited Vietnam to discuss bilateral cooperation. In the coming years, besides accomplishing the water supply projects in Hanoi and Haiphong, the Overseas Development Agency of Finland will also help with afforestation and energy.

Justice Delegation Visits France

BK0912075992 Hanoi VNA in English 0708 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 9—A delegation of the Ministry of Justice led by Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc has visited France and attended the Day of Justice annually held by the Paris Bar Association.

While in France it had working sessions with many senior French officials. The two sides highly valued results of the cooperation between the two countries in the past three years in the law and judicial areas. Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc highly appreciated French assistance to Vietnam in these areas.

In the framework of the Vietnamese-French agreement on Cultural and Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc and his French counterpart, Michel Vauzelle, and Secretary of State Mrs Catherine Tasca signed a statement on cooperation in law and judicial areas between the two countries.

Minister Loc and the chief of the Paris Bar Association signed an agreement on the latter's assistance to Vietnam in personnel training.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Outgoing Nigerian Envoy

BK0912154792 Hanoi VNA in English 1534 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 9—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet this afternoon received Nigerian Ambassador Emmanual Nweachukwu Oba who is going to conclude his term of office in Vietnam.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet spoke highly of the ambassador's contributions to the strengthening of the Vietnamese-Nigerian friendship, and valued highly Nigeria's role in the region and the world.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said he hoped that the two countries would join efforts in establishing a partnership of mutual benefit, and that Nigeria's experiences in oil industry would be effectively applied in Vietnam.

Ambassador Emmanuel Nweachukwu Oba affirmed that Nigeria will continue to study the possibilities of broadening cooperation of mutual benefit between the two countries, and he said he hoped that in the near future, Nigeria's oil experts would be present in Vietnam to help develop its fledgling oil industry.

Australia

U.S. Request for Troops Given 'Serious' Thought

BK1012080892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The United States has asked Australia to contribute troops to the American-led force in Somalia. Australia says it's giving serious consideration to the request made at the meeting in Canberra between the American Ambassador Melvin Sembler and the Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

It's being left to Canberra to decide on the number of Australian troops to be sent if the request is accepted. Washington has also asked Australia to increase the number of troops for peacekeeping operations in Somalia after the American-led force has left. Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray said last October, the 30 Australian troops would be deployed as peacekeepers.

Huge Oil, Gas Project Off West Coast Approved

BK0912074992 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The Australian Government has given the go-ahead to develop a huge oil and gas field off the coast of Western Australia. The federal resources minister, Alan Griffiths, said he had approved a production license for an area known as the (Dauphin) Field which has an estimated reserves of 125 billion barrels of crude oil and 78 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

The project is being described as the biggest of its kind to be approved in Australia in 12 years. Mr. Griffiths says that when production gets under way, it will initially improve Australia's balance of trade by Australian $800 million a year.

Australia's largest resources company, BHP, has a major share in the consortium set up to develop the field, which is expected to go into production in February 1994.

Papua New Guinea

Hospital Said Burned; Rebels Accuse Government

BK0712085092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The Arawa general hospital on the Papua New Guinea [PNG] island of Bougainville has burnt down. It is not clear who is responsible but both sides in the secessionist conflict are blaming each other. PNG Government forces claim last Friday that they had aerial photos to prove that the Arawa hospital and the clinic had been set on fire and blamed the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] which still controls the town. But, the BRA claims both buildings caught fire as a result of mortar fire on the town by the PNG military.

Rebel Leader Apologizes for Report

BK0912063692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] commander, Sam Kauona, has apologized for incorrectly reporting earlier this week that the Arawa General Hospital had been burned down, but he maintained that the Papua New Guinea [PNG] security forces in Bougainville were still destroying buildings in Arawa with mortar fire.

Mr. Kauona said the report that the hospital was burned down last Friday came because of communication problems in Arawa and other parts of Bougainville controlled by the BRA. He said the building destroyed last Friday, along with the medical foundation, was the Red Cross Building.

The PNG Government blamed the destruction of the hospital and medical foundation on the BRA and claimed it had aerial photographs to prove that both buildings were burned. Mr. Kauona says the hospital is still intact and operational.

Wingti on Plan To Open U.S., Asian Trade Offices

BK0912061292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea is to open trade offices in East Asia and the United States. Prime Minister Paias Wingti said three Asian offices will be opened next year in Tokyo, Singapore, and Hong Kong, and one in San Francisco. Papua New Guinea's present trade offices are in Sydney and Brussels.

Mr Wingti said the aim of the offices would be to promote Papua New Guinea as a commercial partner for foreign businesses, encourage investment in Papua New Guinea, and help its exporters.